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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**Fifty-first plenary session
(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE
REGION, 2003/2004 AND 2004/2005: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2
TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**Paper prepared by the ECE secretariat**Introduction**

1. 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. The Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 2 which is entitled “Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues”, and it is sub-divided into eight “programme elements (PE)” or fields of work.

2. The Integrated Presentation is prepared for review at the 10-12 June 2003 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating 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. It is also used by countries to plan their statistical activities and to decide 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, and re-issued as the “post-plenary session” version.

3. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed at its meeting on 13-14 February 2003 that the full version of the Integrated Presentation will be produced and disseminated in

future in English only. The reason is that in previous years the translation of the Integrated Presentation into French and Russian was often delayed and not available in time for the CES plenary session in the three ECE official languages. However, the Bureau decided that an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (totalling about 90 pages) be prepared. This excerpt is translated into French and Russian. The shorter version of the Integrated Presentation is presented in document CES/2003/4. It offers in an integrated unique document general information on the various statistical areas, and includes the following sections: goals, issues and problems, strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings and activities of the CES.

PE 2. 1

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Title	Management of information technology infrastructure
2.1	Goal	That the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT) be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data.
2.1	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The potential of the emerging ICT has not yet been realised and it is perceived that considerable such potential exists. ◆ Countries within the ECE area vary considerably in their ICT capabilities. ◆ Priority should be given to re-engineering processes in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics holistically as a consequence of the rapid proliferation of Internet services in statistical practice. ◆ The Conference at its 2002 plenary session identified various issues requiring follow up by the International Organisations. In particular, the Conference asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to investigate the possibility of developing a common system (portal) for monitoring data collection activities by International Organisations; ▪ to ensure the development of data sharing models; ▪ to give both NSOs and other data providers easy access to statistics available at the international organizations in a form allowing comparisons and usage in national dissemination programmes; ▪ to put in place secure and operational methods and tools for the transmission of sensitive information. The experiences from the STADIUM/STATEL solution supporting GESMES CB should be considered in this context; ▪ to investigate the possibility of defining a standard codification scheme for economic time-series (for national accounts and balance of payments) with an initial focus on short term-indicators; ▪ to work with NSOs to facilitate the reuse of their standard products.
2.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>(NOTE: Work is under way on the issues identified by the Conference at its 2002 plenary session as requiring follow-up by the International Organisations. These issues are listed in the section “issues and problems”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved structure and cooperation with national focal points on the website on IT practices in national statistical offices. ◆ Introduction of video and internet conferencing facilities in the international statistical cooperation <p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A re-designed architecture for collection, processing and dissemination of statistical data under the rapid development in ICT with emphasis on the integration of data sources and data dissemination on both national and international levels. ◆ Improved dissemination of official statistics via Internet. ◆ Increased level of implementation of common EDI messages standards in transition economies. <p>For Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement on common architecture for statistical information services (collection, production & internal reference, external reference, dissemination). ◆ Adoption and integration of open-EDI technologies such as common exchange standards for documents, statistical reports, statistical data, classifications and meta-data. ◆ Agreement on common EDI messages and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to couple distributed statistical information services (e.g. locating, extracting and downloading relevant statistical data for a specific domain). <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further standardise and integrate statistical work in the Organisation with the aim of

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>creating a corporate data warehouse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further co-ordinate statistical data collection and dissemination with other international organisations and relevant countries. <p>For World Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To develop a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system for its own staff and for users in other countries and institutions by 2005. Its aims will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a first step, socio-economic, external debt and trade indicators and other related Bank/IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrators) data will be included in this warehouse; ▪ The capability of supporting user specified queries over the Internet; ▪ Differentiated access based on privileges; ▪ The development of software that could be disseminated to countries to increase their statistical capacity.
2.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved and publicised website on best applications of statistical information and communication technologies. ◆ Progress in follow up to the priorities towards using the information systems infrastructure for better sharing of data, coordination of international data collection, improved dissemination of statistics by IOs to NSOs. <p>For ECE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved technological environment for collection, processing and dissemination of data with particular focus on the Internet technology. ◆ A joint programme (with UNSD) of technical assistance to CIS countries focusing on information systems issues related to population and housing censuses. <p>Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of new ICT architecture. ◆ Construction of a single interface for Eurostat reference bases. ◆ Installation of new version of Eurostat internet site. ◆ Creation of new Data Preparation System. <p>OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Complete the development of new OECD statistical systems (OECD.Stat) ◆ Complete a metadata driven universal interface to OECD.Stat ◆ Installation of a new version of the OECD Statistics Portal <p>IMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase the number of member country correspondents using the GESMES/CB standard UN/EDIFACT message for electronic interchange of monetary, balance of payments and other statistics from countries in the ECE region. ◆ Implementation of a secure web-based data collection system (2003). ◆ New relational database management systems will support detailed access to metadata through a web-based interactive query interface (2003). <p>CIS-STAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase the proportion of data transmitted by CIS member country correspondents using common standards for the electronic interchange of statistics.
2.1	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing

PE	Heading	Text
2.1	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below). ◆ To ask the international organisations to report regularly on the follow up towards using the information systems infrastructure for better sharing of data, coordination of international data collection, improved dissemination of statistics by IOs to NSOs. ◆ To ask the Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems to review periodically the activities undertaken under Programme Activity 2 with particular attention to the risk of overlap and duplication. ◆ To include the joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Technology on the meeting programme of the Conference for 2004.
2.1	Rapporteur	ECE
2.1	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on Statistical Information Technology (2004, agenda of the meeting to be decided – see section “Decisions taken by the Conference”) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: IT Steering Committee, once a year (13-14 October 2003)
2.1	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on Statistical Information Technology (2004, agenda of the meeting to be decided The agenda will include the review of the follow up to the objectives set-up by the Conference in the field of statistical information systems) ◆ Continued cooperation on the website on applications of statistical information and communication technologies by national statistical offices (hosted by the OECD). <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial.</p>
2.1	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further standardise and integrate statistical work in the Organisation with the view of creating a corporate data warehouse by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating a corporate data catalogue and a further developing a glossary of statistical terms outlining corporate statistical concepts; ▪ Developing a central metadata repository; ▪ Developing a metadata driven universal interface to the main statistical databases of the organisation; ▪ Further co-ordinating statistical dissemination; and ▪ Co-ordinating data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes).
2.1	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u> Providing Eurostat with a data-processing infrastructure that will guarantee uninterrupted operation and data security in accordance with Commission standards by constantly improving the quality and efficiency of our systems and services, particularly through structured co-operation with the Member States aimed at sharing experience and creating economies of scale.</p> <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintaining the existing level of service with regard to the provision of infrastructure, the support and the continuation of current applications. ◆ Continuing infrastructure rationalisation and improved organisation of server capacity. ◆ Continuing construction of common modules for the production environment. ◆ Continuing deployment of the software component of the new architecture and a statistical processing workflow model. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><u>Priorities for 2002</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction of the new Eurostat architecture based on four environments, namely Collection – Production and internal reference – External reference – Distribution, and two types of servers, a general data and an application servers will be continued. ◆ Rationalisation of the Eurostat information systems will continue against the

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>background of the new architecture and the organisation of user groups through the definition of the "data life cycle" process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Subjecting user services to quality assurance from the standpoint of efficiency and subsidiarity. ◆ Increasing co-operation with the Member States. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of a quality-assurance plan for server and network management, management of client relations, training. ◆ Installation of Windows 2000. ◆ Construction of a single interface for the Eurostat reference bases. ◆ Installation of IRMS (Integrated Resources Management System). ◆ Installation of a new version of Eurostat Internet site. ◆ Creation of a new Data Preparation System ◆ Integration of the new MS in all architectural levels ◆ Integrated approach of informatics activities of Eurostat with the Agency's. ◆ Integration of publications with the Reference databases
2.1	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Participates in the ECE meetings on Statistical Information Technology in the field of developing software and hardware systems for the management of interactive statistical databases oriented to Internet dissemination. The objective is to promote the development and application of more standardized, effective and efficient applications for internal processing and public access. ◆ Provides technical advisory services in IT to transition economies on request, to assist national statistical services in adopting new IT technologies.
2.1	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development and maintenance of a set of documentation and relevant administrative statistics kept for control purposes on all of the databases maintained by the ILO Bureau of Statistics. The documentation includes the contents of each database, timing of updates, backups, verification programmes, standard questionnaire movements, procedures, etc. ◆ With the guiding objective to reach the "Zero-Paper Capacity", without endangering the ILO's responsibility to produce printed publications for Member States with low electronic capacities, the ILO is working towards the replacement of paper computer outputs and printed documentation into HTML pages that are automatically generated and transferred on the ILO's Web site. This process will eventually lead to the stable production of all major publications in electronic form.
2.1	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The IMF continues to develop data sharing partnerships with other international and regional organizations to reduce the reporting burden on member countries. The IMF now collects monetary data directly from the ECB on behalf of all ECB members, and is pursuing similar arrangements in other topical areas with the OECD and EUROSTAT. ◆ Data collection activities continue to be further streamlined, using existing defacto standards such as the EDIFACT-based GESMES/CB message format and Excel, and use of the Internet as a communications mechanism. A new secure web-based system will go into production in early 2002 for collecting data electronically from member countries. Future planned developments include the use of XML for data and metadata exchange. ◆ By end-2003, most of the IMF Statistics Department's databases will be using a new object-oriented database management, with modern publications technologies. The new system will support linkages to externally held ("catalogued") metadata, such as the country metadata posted on the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board, http://dsbb.imf.org as well as standard methodologies (e.g., <u>Balance of Payments Manual</u>, fifth edition (BPM5) and <u>1993 SNA</u>). The re-use of existing information, such as country metadata, is a key element of the new system and, together with the

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>refined structuring of country metadata into component key-concepts, the detailed and analytical querying of country metadata will be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dissemination of published data over the Internet continues to expand. An interactive, web-based system for searching and retrieving data from the IFS database has been released. In the coming years, similar products will follow for other published data sets, such as the balance of payments statistics, direction of trade statistics, and government finance statistics. ◆ Work is ongoing to develop the portal website for the collection, sharing, and dissemination of statistical metadata in support of the Fund's data standards' initiatives, the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) through the use of a Content Management System, a Content Aggregation System, a Relational Database Management System for metadata, SQL, and XML.
2.1	Activities of the World Bank:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Development Data Group of the World Bank has embarked on a 3-year project to develop a web-based statistical data collection and dissemination system for its own staff and for users in other countries and institutions. The data delivery will be over the internet using secure protocols. The objective is to build an infrastructure that brings many of the statistical databases in the Bank under a data warehouse. Further, through arrangements with other participating organizations/member countries, data from their respective sources could also be made available to a user's query over the internet, provided the user were to have the necessary privileges to access that data. As a first step, socio-economic, external debt and trade indicators and other related Bank/IDA data will be included in this warehouse. ◆ The proposed system will integrate and streamline time-series data management operations at the Bank, and will establish a comprehensive platform to support the statistical data collection and dissemination functions of the Bank. Also, the software thus developed may be provided to countries to further the goal of statistical capacity building in these countries. The software developed in this project may be installed in these countries for their own data retrieval, data maintenance and updating functions, provided they adhere to certain data and software standards. ◆ The project, is planned for completion in 3 years. It will be delivered in stages so that as the system components get developed, these would support the new Bank-wide data initiatives such as the Global Development Gateway and the Global Development Network.
2.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ongoing work is aimed at improving standards for the electronic exchange of statistical data by CIS member countries and coordinating work on the establishment and maintenance of national registers of business activity in CIS member States. ◆ Work on improving information technology within the CIS-STAT framework, gradually replacing obsolete workstations with more advanced systems, acquiring and installing software (operating systems), improving the software tools for data collection and storage in the CIS-STAT database, and training staff to work in a distributed data-processing environment will continue.

PE 2. 2

2.2	Title	Statistical data collection and processing
2.2	Goal	That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the collection and processing of statistical data, and that the reporting burden placed on countries be minimised.
2.2	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Electronic data interchange standards are being promoted in order to further integrate technically the statistical systems of countries and international agencies. ◆ The use and sharing of efficient methodology and software in common collection and processing operations carried out by statistical agencies (e.g. sampling, data entry, editing, coding, estimation), best practices in data editing methods and techniques especially those allowing cost savings are to be identified and made available.
2.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progress in putting in place secure and operational methods and tools for the transmission of sensitive information drawing on the best practices (e.g. STADIUM/STATEL, GESMES CB, etc.) ◆ The reuse of NSOs' standard electronic data products by the international organisations when it is cost effective and feasible <p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progressive re-engineering in data collection for statistical surveys caused by the expansion of web services. ◆ Increased use of electronic data reporting methods and techniques in data collection from enterprises, administration and other sources. ◆ Better use of EDI standards for statistical data collection with focus on transition economies. ◆ Recommendations on the best practices on the evaluation of the efficiency of the data editing process. <p>For EUROSTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adoption of XML version of RDRMES as UN standard. ◆ Agreement on the use of EDI messages to specify the statistical requirements to the economic operators and their declarers. ◆ Production of documentation on EDI projects for decision-makers, key partners in data collection, key technological players such as software houses, EDI providers, and standardization bodies, etc. <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The OECD will continue its efforts to contribute to reducing the burden on national statistical agencies by further co-ordinating data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes). <p>For the World Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reorganisation of official statistical data collection and processing in the Russian Federation
2.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of "Statistical Confidentiality in the EU" (depending on outcome of Calls for Tender). ◆ Creation of a secure environment where researchers can access micro EU data for Scientific purposes (Safe Centre). ◆ Proposals for IT security standards for the ESS. ◆ Windows version of IDEP/CN8.
2.2	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Possible combined use of business registers data and data collected for fiscal purposes

2.2	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
2.2	Rapporteur	ECE
2.2	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT WG: EDICOM IDEP/EDIFACT, twice a year (16-17 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Workshop on Statistical Metadata, once a year (3-4 April 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT Committee/WG on statistical confidentiality, twice a year (8-9 April, 3 December 2003) ◆ ECE: Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (timing to be decided by the CES Bureau on the basis of proposal put forward by the ECE). ◆ ECE/EUROSTAT Work Session Electronic Data Reporting, 2004.
2.2	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Methodological publication "Statistical Data Editing, Vol. 3" based on the outcomes of meetings on Statistical Data Editing with special regard to evaluation methods and quality indicators for statistical data editing. ◆ Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (timing and agenda to be decided by the CES Bureau on the basis of proposal put forward by the ECE after the 2003 work session). ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session Electronic Data Reporting, 2004, to consider: (i) National integration (e-government initiatives); (ii) National research (quality issue, organization, administrative sources); (iii) Respondents' behaviour (security, e-commerce, built-in edits, benchmarking of data); (iv) Communication and support (helpdesk, training); (v) Implementation (in parallel with the programme of work of the work session).
2.2	Activities of OECD	The OECD continues its efforts to implement the Data Sharing model through two initiatives: implement direct access to existing databases in NSOs or in other International Organisations through web tools; and, experiment a data sharing initiative in the area of National Accounts (NAWWE project).
2.2	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A reorganisation of Eurostat's information systems will allow the "Internal reference" and the "External reference" to be separated: this will result in more efficient data management, particularly as regards processing confidential data. The Commission Regulation on access to confidential data for scientific purposes adopted in December 2001 by the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality will be implemented. <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Facilitate national data collection by the promotion of best practices, the exchange of know-how and tools. <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The internal and external reference environments are made up of a set of resources (data-bases, meta-data bases, software and interfaces) covering Eurostat data, standards and methodologies designed to co-ordinate all Eurostat statistics, facilitate producer activities and provide an efficient, high-quality distribution service. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To manage and co-ordinate confidentiality issues within the ESS through the Committee on Statistical Confidentiality. Work programme recognises Committee on Statistical Confidentiality (CSC) as primary forum for management and co-ordination of confidentiality issues within ESS. ◆ To set up a secure environment called Safe Centre where researchers can access confidential data for scientific purposes. ◆ To manage and co-ordinate statistical confidentiality issues within Eurostat, day to day co-ordination of statistical confidentiality issues being addressed through re-activated Internal Task Force on Statistical Confidentiality.

		<p><u>Ongoing work</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support Intrastat primary data collection by maintenance of IDEP/CN8, support to the competent national administrations, and preparation and delivery of the Windows versions of IDEP/CN8 will continue, but a "phase out plan" will be prepared for after the delivery of the Windows version in 2003. ◆ Contribute to the implementation of the EDICOM-ICT Work Program as approved by the Intrastat Committee in 2002. <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <p>Pursue and expand the objectives proposed in previous years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improving services offered by the reference environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ user-friendliness of the tools developed ▪ integration of graphic representation ▪ optimised information-retrieval procedure ▪ evaluation of the quality of the metadata describing the proposed data. ◆ Application of workflow techniques in conjunction with the producers to improve client information and extend the application of the harmonised metadata to the different phases of the data and metadata life cycle. ◆ Fulfilment of a new optimised architecture – Collection, Production, Internal and external reference, Dissemination – allowing greater coverage of customer requirements. ◆ Optimisation of data dictionary functions for the management of all special nomenclatures in the reference environment. ◆ Promotion and co-ordination of metadata operations in the ESS and Eurostat, including text server and information server. ◆ Co-operation in the field of statistical metadata between the ESS and the other international organisations (e.g. SDMX). ◆ Participation (in conjunction with UN/ECE) in the organisation and follow-up of METIS. <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <p><u>Data Security and Data Protection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review of data-security procedures in the new Windows XP environment and the Unix domain after the transfer of the management of Unix servers to the Data Centre. Users assistance with a view to promoting a responsible attitude to security. <p><u>Management of Confidentiality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To implement the Commission Regulation on Access to Confidential Data for Scientific Purposes. Implementing Commission regulation 831/2002 will be handled through a remit from the CD to the Internal Task Force on Statistical Confidentiality. Initially it is expected that priority will be given to developing, and making available, anonymised micro-datasets. At present these are available only for ECHP (European Community Household Panel Study). Contracts for researchers are being revised in the light of the new Regulation. <p><u>Priority objective of the work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>Priorities for 2003:</p> <p><i>Information technologies - Systems for data collection and transmission of primary data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ XML4DR, XML version of RDRMES (EDI standard message for raw data collection) adopted as official UN standard <p><i>Reference databases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Finalisation of the new http server and end-user tools ◆ Audit of the warehouse and definition of new storage solutions (data and metadata) <p><i>Data security and statistical confidentiality:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To establish bilateral agreements with MS authorities. ◆ Prepare a publication on "Statistical Confidentiality in the EU".
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2.2	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continues to work with UN programmes and agencies in the compilation of the millennium development goals indicators database, millenniumindicators.un.org, to ensure an authoritative, readily available source for these data. ◆ Is testing the trial version of COMTRADE access on Internet with a number of agencies, to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access. ◆ Has completed processing systems and is preparing Internet access systems for its databases in energy, international trade, Environment, industrial commodities and national accounts, to provide more efficient public, governmental and international agency access.

2.2	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Electronic questionnaires have been developed for the collection of data for the ILO October Inquiry, which involves a very large volume of data. These were first tested in 2002. Given the choice between electronic and conventional mailed questionnaires, many countries preferred the latter. The electronic questionnaires will be tested again in 2003. ◆ In order to further improve the timeliness and availability of labour market information to users, the ILO is developing a Labour Market Indicators Library Network (LMIL) in a number of areas, including Central and Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia). An LMIL system has been developed to electronically transfer information between ILO field offices and Headquarters to support the LMIL Network.
2.2	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Active participant in the GESMES/CB working group and adoption of GESMES/CB as one of the two preferred message formats for data collection. ◆ Develop an SDDS/GDDS portal website to provide enhanced collection, management, sharing, and dissemination of statistical information by leveraging Relational Database and Content Management Systems in conjunction with a Content Aggregation System and XML for rendering metadata. These technologies will offer new automation capabilities, e.g., in the monitoring of SDDS observance. These improvements will be made in conjunction with ongoing international initiatives such as SDMX aimed at creating an open exchange system for statistical information on the Internet.
2.2	Activities of the World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the Russian Federation, following activities will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project (Reorganization of Data Collection and processing subcomponent): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (i) development of a systematic plan, with timetable, to complete the process of replacing regular censuses with sample surveys in real sector statistics; ▪ (ii) development of administrative and statistical business registers (registers of enterprises and organizations; ▪ (iii) preparation of draft project of economic censuses in the Russian Federation; ▪ (iv) organization of all-Russia agricultural census in vie of FAO UN program, improvement of statistical observation of small enterprises; ▪ (v) development of public relations strategy for Goskomstat of Russia to be applied in the course of wide-scale statistical surveys (economic, agricultural censuses, surveys of small businesses, household surveys etc.) and its pilot testing; ▪ (vi) development of a system to support household sample surveys. <p>These activities will be supported by procurement of the relevant equipment for processing the survey data, including procurement of minicomputers to provide overall transition to electronic methods of data collection on prices.</p> ◆ The World Bank gathers macroeconomic data and projections at least once a year from its country teams in a process known as the Unified Survey. These data and projections are used for planning and evaluating Bank operations. They underlie work on creditworthiness and risk assessment and they are an important part of the Bank's external publications such as the World Development Indicators, the country and regional At-a-Glance tables, and Global Development Finance. These data are collected in a standardized way using the World Bank's country database system known as the Live Database (LDB). The LDB is an Excel based database which standardizes the management of macroeconomic information by organizing information into separate sheets by topic and utilizing indicator codes, common layouts, and a variety of formatting, calculation, and reporting tools. The World bank is also working on a new web version of LDB. ◆ The World Bank's Debt Reporting System (DRS) requires every member country

		<p>which has received either an IBRD loan or an IDA credit to provide information on its external debt. The borrowing countries are required to report their long-term external debt on the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (i) Form 1- Description of Individual External Public Debt and Private Debt Publicly Guaranteed which consists of information on each loan characteristics, such as commitment date, amount of loan commitment, loan purpose, interest rate, and terms and conditions of payments; ▪ (ii) Form 1A- Schedule of Drawings and Principal and Interest Payments for Individual External Public Debt and Private Debt Publicly Guaranteed, purpose of which is to enable the Bank to make projections of future payments of principal and interest for those loans that have irregular patterns of repayments; ▪ (iii) Form 2- Individual External Public Debts and Private Debts Publicly Guaranteed: Current Status and Transactions During Period. This form contains loan-by-loan information on debt stocks and debt flows during the reporting period; ▪ (iv) Form 3- To contain specific amendments to Forms 1 and 2; ▪ (v) Form 4-External Private Non-Guaranteed Debt to include aggregate stocks and flows data on long-term external private non-guaranteed debt. <p>◆ The World Bank has been working closely with the Commonwealth secretariat and the UNCTAD to improve the data collection across the globe. In addition, new tools are being built and made available to reporting countries through the external data collection site (Web-DRS), to speed up the process.</p>
2.2	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The collection and processing of monthly, quarterly and yearly statistical data supplied to CIS-STAT by Commonwealth countries' national statistical services takes the form of standardised questionnaires incorporating 208 Excel-format tables. Information is exchanged over the Internet with all statistical services in the Commonwealth. ◆ During the period 2003-2005, work will continue on standardising the electronic exchange of statistical information with national statistical services and international organisations and on improving the reference database with a view to broadening the range of services available to the various users (more comprehensive data coverage, inclusion of harmonised classifications and a variety of catalogues and handbooks). An analysis of new technology will be made with a view to improving data protection and confidentiality.

PE 2.3

2.3	Title	Dissemination and interchange of statistical information (NOTE: this programme element is focused on the technical and methodological aspects of data dissemination, while the content of dissemination is treated under PE 6.1)
2.3	Goal	That the benefits of ICT be harnessed to the greatest extent possible in the dissemination and interchange of statistical information
2.3	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of meta-information systems at national level and harmonization of metadata systems of international organizations. ◆ Further spreading of use of Internet for dissemination of statistical data. ◆ Implementation of common EDI standards for statistical data dissemination. ◆ Dissemination of market-sensitive economic data to mass media.
2.3	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved and user friendly dissemination of statistics collected by the international organisation to NSOs and other data providers. <p>For the ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved tools for dissemination of statistics, with a particular focus on Internet ◆ Progress in the integration of metadata related to the dissemination of statistics by international organisations. ◆ Preparation of a handbook on best practices in disseminating statistical data to the information media and on statistical offices' media relations. ◆ Improved use of common standards for EDI in transition economies. <p>For EUROSTAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement on concentrated efforts, investments and resources on DSIS 6 priorities (metadata, reference environment, raw data collection, design and integration of EDI technologies, multimedia and information highways, integration with networking technologies). ◆ Agreement on use of standardized EDI messages as a corner to exchange data and metadata between reference environments. ◆ Implementation of reference and dissemination environments (new architecture) conforming to common recommendations, requirements and memorandum of understanding (including access rights, copyrights, accounting practices). ◆ Feasibility studies on how statistical information services can benefit from EDI and multimedia technologies. ◆ Improvement in the quality of publications and reductions in the number of titles. <p>For the OECD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Further increase the dissemination of free data on the Internet and improve the coherence of on-line dissemination by integrating datasets and improving the descriptive metadata content. ◆ Co-ordinate dissemination policies across NSOs and International Organisations. <p>For the IMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completion of the initial set of draft standards for the exchange of statistical information by the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX). <p>For the UNSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of the Millennium Indicators Database for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.
2.3	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Output delivery in the four SDMX priority areas ((practical case study on emerging e-standards, batch time series data exchange; a metadata common vocabulary; and metadata repositories) ◆ A reflection on charging policy will be conducted with EU Member States. ◆ Data Shop and Data Shop Relays action plan will be implemented (EU). ◆ A new version of the Euro-Indicator website will be launched and evaluated (EU).

2.3	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing
2.3	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
2.3	Rapporteur	ECE
2.3	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Statistics, Telematic Networks & EDI (STNE), twice a year (13-14 March 2003, 16-17 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Dissemination of statistical Information, twice a year, (24-25 April 2003, 9-10 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT TF "Groupe de réflexion sur l'avenir de la diffusion", twice a year, (24 January 2003, 20 June 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Data Shop Network Meeting, twice a year, (22-23 May 2003) ◆ ECE Work Session on Statistical Output of statistical commentary (2003/2004). ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata (2003/2004).
2.3	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation of the methodological material on best practices for dealing with the media (2003/2004). ◆ Work Session on Statistical Output of statistical commentary (4-5 December 2004). ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Statistical Metadata (2003/2004) to consider the following: (i) Metadata uses over the survey life-cycle; (ii) Uses of XML schema and web services in metadata systems; (iii) Extensions and refinements of metadata models; (iv) Using metadata for searching and finding statistical data in websites and portals. ◆ Active participation in the work on EDI (EEG6, SDMG, GMWG).
2.3	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Streamlining publication processes; ◆ Expanding the metadata content and functionality of statistical electronic products; ◆ Further increase the dissemination of OECD free data on the Internet and improve the coherence of on-line dissemination by integrating datasets and improving the descriptive metadata content.
2.3	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provision of modern IT services guaranteeing the rapid exchange of information and effective co-operation within the European Statistical System between Eurostat and its clients and between the national administrations and their data suppliers. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Euro-Indicator</u>: The Euro-Indicator site supplies the public with time series, available at a high level of frequency and giving an overall picture of the business cycle in Europe. The underlying database consists of about 350 indicators; most are fully harmonised, some others are national not fully harmonised or even country specific indicators. It covers areas of interest for short-term analysis, aims at consistency, contains long time series and comprehensive metadata. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promotion and assistance to national administrations and Eurostat users in the implementation of monitored data exchange; follow-up and support of the corresponding systems (STATEL, STADIUM, EDIFLOW). ◆ Promotion and assistance to national administrations and Eurostat users in the implementation of standardised messages (GESMES, GESMES/CB, CLASET). ◆ Further development of the Groupwork tool CIRCA and administration of its

		<p>Eurostat's site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evolutive Maintenance of the research site VIROS. <p><i>Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>External communication</u>: Potential projects: improvement of press releases, publication of additional Euro-indicators covered by press releases, release of specific information for journalists, extension of timetable for the publication of Euro-indicators and ad hoc press releases, distribution of Euro-indicator tables, closer links with radio and TV stations, development of relations with the media in candidate countries pending enlargement and in European and certain non-European non-member countries. Meetings with journalist groups, writer training and relations with journalists. Exchange of best practices and co-operation with INS colleagues. Consolidation of activity and performance indicators. ◆ <u>Summary publications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Production</i>: Improvement of the content of our publications: better selection of indicators; more prominence to analysis. More dissemination on the Internet. Establishment of a "Yearbook domain" in New Cronos containing about 1000 tables with the most important indicators in all statistical areas (can be used for a broad dissemination via the Internet; "low hanging fruits" for the general public). Simplification of the production process by the use of new tools (derived tables in NewCronos). CD-ROM with improved functionalities. Production of two publications for the occasion of Eurostat's 50th anniversary (historical overview, pocketbook with statistics from 50 years). ▪ <i>Marketing</i>: follow-up of the evolution of user needs by questionnaires and adaptation of our products accordingly, with probably a bigger place for Internet solutions. ▪ <i>Co-publishing</i>: implementation of a new licence contract from 2002 on. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Publications programme</u>: : The main aims will be to improve the quality of Eurostat publications in terms of both content and presentation, as well as to reduce the number of titles, with a view to providing users with a clearer and better targeted publications programme. The unit responsible will assist other units in choosing the topics to be covered and the best ways to disseminate the available information, especially in the context of bilateral meetings held at a high level. On the other hand, the different users and their expectations will be subject to qualitative and quantitative studies, in order to better satisfy their needs. An analysis of the cost-effectiveness of each publication will be carried out and this will also constitute a performance indicator. ◆ <u>Dissemination policy</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marketing and Promotional activities: Actions will be concentrated on continued regular and cost-effective information to our users (Statistical References and the web site). Promotion of databases on internet will be improved. The internet site will also be used to assess user satisfaction and qualify user profiles. The Data Shop and Sales agent networks will benefit from the marketing support. One key objective is to make leaflets and sales arguments available just before a product is launched. ▪ Free dissemination and pricing policy: An acceleration of the free dissemination for the civil society will start in 2003. A first step will be the dissemination of 1000 structural indicators and increase of free eur-indicators on the web. A second step will be a deep analysis with NSIs (Reflection group) and Eurostat services on how to go further. Free dissemination and pricing policy are very sensitive issues with direct impacts on audience and resources. ◆ <u>Dissemination networks</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Internet, the Data Shop network, the Eur-OP's sales agents network and the
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		<p>licensees represent the four main Eurostat distribution networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet: The aim will be to improve the quality of user services as regards both access time and editorial quality, ensure greater compatibility with other distribution networks and establish regular user surveys to assess satisfaction with Eurostat products and services. One challenge will be the development of database information online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Shop Network: Following the definition of the future role of the Data Shops and Data Shop Relays in 2002, the action plan will be implemented in 2003. First Relays should open in 2003, new Data Shops in 2004. The quality charter must be fully implemented by Eurostat and the Data Shops. An evaluation will take place end 2003. A new contract will start in 2003 for the Brussels and Luxembourg Data Shops and their back-up facilities. A training programme will be drawn up and new "practical" courses will be tested. As regards marketing, the objectives will be to improve user awareness (satisfaction surveys etc.) in general and in the case of each Data Shop. This will make possible to develop new demand-orientated products and services and identify the best ways of promoting the individual Data Shops. ○ Eur-OP' sales agents network: evaluation of the effectiveness of the marketing and back-up provided will also be a major task, in close Cupertino with OPOCE's sales service. ○ Licences and co-publishing: Improvement of transparency for co-publishing and licensing: continue the implementation of the new licence contracts and prepare an assessment for end 2003. ◆ Euro-Indicators: The Euro-Indicator site has been opened to the public in Summer 2001. The underlying Euro-IND database replaces the Euro-Sics database. The global coverage of the database and the list of indicators have been defined with privileged users and are currently updated and improved. Action during years 2003-2005 will be concentrated on the measurement and improvement of the quality of the database and of the satisfaction of the users. A new version of the site will be implemented in 2003. ◆ Structural indicators: The Structural Indicators site supplies to a broad range of users a set of key indicators covering the general economic background, employment, innovation and research, economic reform, social cohesion and the environment. These indicators are being used in the European Commissions' annual Synthesis Report which assesses progress made towards the strategic goal agreed at Lisbon Special European Council to transform the European Union into "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion". <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Detailed implementation plans for STADIUM and GESMES & GESMES/CB. ◆ Pilot projects extending STADIUM to internal workflow and validation of data at the sender. ◆ Dataflow inventory EDIFLOW accessible to national administrations for consultation and update via Internet. ◆ Development of an internal action program for e-Conferencing. ◆ Creation of XML versions of the standardised messages GESMES/CB and CLASET. <p><i>Dissemination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Euro-Indicators: The main objective will be to improve the quality of the site and of the database: increasing the timeliness of the main indicators by including flash estimations, increasing the length of time series by computing backcasts etc. The
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		<p>database will be extended to EFTA countries, accession countries and to the main non-European economic partners.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p><i>Information technologies - Telematic networks ESS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparing the development of a shared knowledge base (SMICK project). Identification of user requirements and feasibility studies relating to elements of a collaborative action facilitating environment (CAFÉ).
2.3	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Collaborates with agencies in data compilation and dissemination across most social and economic fields of statistics for the Statistical Yearbook (print and CD-ROM), Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (print and Internet), World Statistics Pocketbook (print and Internet), and UN Common Database on Internet. ◆ Collaborates with agencies in compilation and dissemination of the millennium development goals indicators in (a) the Division's Internet database millenniumindicators.un.org, (b) the Secretary-General's annual report on progress in achieving the millennium development goals, (c) the Task Force reports of the UN's Millennium Project, coordinated by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs as Special Advisory to the Secretary-General (www.unmillenniumproject.org) and (d) other annual reports and analyses of the Division on the indicators, for Internet dissemination. ◆ Collaborates with IMF, Eurostat and BIS on the development of XML data and metadata exchange standards. ◆ Continues to develop comprehensive standardized metadata on sources and definitions for the UN Common Database and millennium development goals indicators database, to provide user-friendly public and agency access to authoritative metadata on sources and definitions for international statistics.
2.3	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ILO's statistical Web site (http://laborsta.ilo.org) continues to be maintained and updated. This site gives users access to a broad range of data contained in the ILO's statistical databases and makes it possible to view and download information free of charge. The associated national meta-information for each series is also available on-line on the Web site. (see programme element 4.4) ◆ The development of CD-ROMs of labour statistics is being implemented with a view to issuing the first CD-ROM in the series in 2003. ◆ The content and design of all ILO printed statistical publications are being reviewed in 2003-04 with a view to improving their value to users while reducing production costs. ◆ The third edition of the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) database and publication will be available on CD-ROM with new features including a mapping function, country report and frequent notification of updates.
2.3	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>(See also PE 2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increased use of CD-ROM and the Internet for electronic dissemination of the IMF's statistical publications, including a complete searchable database web product for International Financial Statistics, the IMF's principal statistical publication. ◆ The IMF is taking a lead role for the SDMX project in the development of an open exchange system, employing XML, for the dissemination and exchange of statistical information on the Internet. The following four projects were initiated in 2002 and initial outputs from these projects are expected in 2003: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A practical case study on emerging e-standards for data exchange ▪ Maintaining and advancing existing standards for batch time series data exchange ▪ Creation of a common vocabulary for statistical metadata ▪ Development of a framework for metadata repositories

2.3	Activities of the World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In the Russian Federation, reorganization and modernization of data dissemination and interchange of statistical information will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project, with the implementation of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (i) generation of data bases and technology development to provide internet access to them; ▪ (ii) web sites design for Goskomstat of Russia; ▪ (iii) assessment of users demand in statistical data. ◆ The Global Development Network (GDN) Initiative is to support and link research and policy institutes involved in the field of development. Its goal is to help research and policy institutions by fostering vibrant global, regional and electronic networking activities designed to ensure the sharing among the development community of the latest research, data, best practices and new ideas. http://www.gdnet.org/ ◆ The Gateway initiative is envisioned as a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources, and tools, and into which they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience. http://www.worldbank.org/gateway/ ◆ The World Bank has been working closely with the Commonwealth secretariat and the UNCTAD to improve the data collection across the globe. In addition, new tools are being built and made available to reporting countries through the external data collection site (Web-DRS), to speed up the process.
2.3	Activities of CIS-STAT	Work will continue on broadening the electronic dissemination of statistical information and access to CIS-STAT databases, and on monthly updating of the CIS-STAT homepage (http://www.cisstat.com) and circulation of CIS-STAT press releases to government bodies in CIS countries, international organisations and major news agencies.
2.3	Activities of PARIS21	See the activities of PARIS21 described under Programme Element 1.4 of the Integrated Presentation

PE 2. 4

2.4	Title	Statistical classifications
2.4	Goal	The world-wide implementation of single statistical classification standards in each area of statistics.
2.4	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Significant discrepancies still exist in the classifications used by NSOs within the ECE region, particularly between ISIC/NACE and NAICS. ◆ Differences exist between official statistical classifications and those used by private corporations. ◆ Limited resources to support national adaptations of ISCO-88. ◆ A socio-economic classification has yet to be created, though progress is being made funded by Eurostat with the ILO participation. ◆ The fast-changing nature of some sectors of the economy compared with the limited capacities to up-date the classifications.
2.4	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To establish an inventory of implementation plans in different countries and current deviations from international classifications. ◆ To bring out greater convergence between NAICS (the North American Industrial Classification System) and NACE (Nomenclature Statistique des Activités Economique dans la Communauté Européenne). ◆ To monitor the program on CPC/CPA revisions. ◆ UNSD revision of ISIC in 2007.
2.4	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of interim classifications for IT sector of the economy pending full-scale revision of NACE.
2.4	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The effort made by Statistics Canada, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática of Mexico, the United States Bureau of the Census and Eurostat on the convergence of industrial classifications NAICS/NACE. ◆ The revision of ISIC.
2.4	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	None
2.4	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.4	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT Committee: SPC NACE/CPA – Nomenclatures, twice a year (19-21 February 2003, 3-5 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT Committee: Customs Code Committee - Nomenclature, twice a year (25-26 February 2003, 13-14 March 2003) ◆ UNSD: Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications (Nov.2003) ◆ UNSD: Meetings of the Technical Subgroup (March 2003, October 2003)
2.4	Activities of CES	None
2.4	Activities of OECD	The OECD is actively participating in the meetings of the Technical Sub-Group which has been set up to update ISIC and the CPC.
2.4	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The work on classifications has a two-fold aim: to implement the revised NACE nomenclatures and E-SEC in the relevant surveys from 2002 onwards, and to further international co-operation to achieve harmonisation in this area. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Classifications NACE, CPA & c.</u> The focus of this theme during the last years has been the development of NACE

		<p>2002 and CPA 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Now Eurostat has started working on the next major revision of the classifications in 2007. This will involve all stakeholders in Europe as well as working in close co-operation with UN. Eurostat has drawn up an ambitious work-plan which will insure consultation and involvement of all stake-holders. A first round of consultations has taken place in 2002, and a first tentative draft is foreseen end-2003. ◆ As part of the revision process both for NACE and the linked UN classification ISIC, Eurostat is working closely with the NACE/CPA working Group, the SPC and the UN Expert Group on Social and Economic Classifications as well as its Technical Subgroup. ◆ Part of the input is the work carried out together with the US Census Bureau, Statistics Canada and Statistics Mexico in order to achieve greater convergence between NAICS (the North American Industrial Classification System) and NACE. ◆ <u>Classifications for trade in goods statistics</u> The year 2003 will see the pursuit of the following objectives proposed in preceding years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ optimising availability of the Combined Nomenclature and related products by improving distribution procedure and computerised; ▪ increasing contacts with acceding countries in order to anticipate their requirements in the context of enlargement. <p><u>Other Activities of the European Commission</u> <u>Classifications for trade in goods statistics</u> Work on the Combined Nomenclature is to be carried out in close co-operation with DG TAXUD.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Integration of new linguistic versions of the CN in various databases should be completed: this is closely linked to the timetable established for enlargement of the EU with new members. ◆ Participating actively to the next round of revision of the Harmonised System.
2.4	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To publish and translate ISIC Rev.3.1 in all UN languages ◆ To publish and translate the Central Product Classification (CPC), Version 1.1 in all UN languages ◆ To continue the publication of a Classifications Newsletter. ◆ To continue maintaining the UN Classifications Website and Registry. ◆ To revise ISIC and CPC for 2007 (first drafts to be prepared in 2004). ◆ To publish training materials for the implementation and use of ISIC and CPC. ◆ To translate the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services in all UN languages. ◆ To update produced and non-produced assets in a separate asset classification. ◆ To reconcile together with ECE, Eurostat and FAO the commodity nomenclatures for the collection of industrial production statistics.

2.4	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A study on whether and in which direction ISCO-88 should be revised will be prepared for discussion at the 17th ICLS in 2003. ◆ Based on the 1997 review of national experiences with the use of classifications of status in employment work, national statistics offices will be invited to carry out small-scale in-depth studies according to a design provided by ILO. ◆ The ILO databases and the corresponding questionnaires for data collection have been restructured to accommodate national statistics provided according to the revised classifications of industry, occupation, status in employment and education. ◆ ILO contributes to the developmental work on ISIC/NACE and CPC/CPA. A proposal was submitted to the UNSD on how to improve ISIC for the classification of informal sector activities by industry.
2.4	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p><u>Ongoing work:</u> Development of model classifications harmonised with their international counterparts, and recommendations on their introduction. Consultations in the course of the introduction in Commonwealth countries of model classifications of types of economic activity based on the first revised version of NACE, a statistical classifier for products based on CPA and the PRODCOM list, the international classification of household consumption expenditure by purpose, the classifier of functions of government and sectors of the economy etc. Development of conversion keys between groups of new harmonised classifications and their old counterparts for the recalculation of dynamic series. Maintenance of a base of problem issues arising during the introduction of new classifications, and notification of national statistical services in the Commonwealth of changes to that base.</p> <p><u>New activities:</u> Development in 2003-2004 of a classifier for foreign economic services based on the Eurostat Classification of Products according to Activity (CPA).</p>

PE 2. 5

2.5	Title	Statistical research and development
2.5	Goal	A continuing programme of productive and relevant research and development, whose results are disseminated widely
2.5	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishing research and development priorities. ◆ Avoiding duplication. ◆ Disseminating results widely. ◆ To develop guidelines for statistical agencies on policies and practices for managing data quality in statistical programs, including the definition, control and description of data quality, and its implication for data release.
2.5	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To promote an active program of research, technology development and transfer within the region on statistical and methodological issues that cut across other PEs in the Work programme (e.g. seasonal adjustment; data quality measurement: non-sampling error; sampling and estimating; questionnaire design; confidentiality protection; longitudinal surveys). ◆ To ensure that the results of this work are accessible to statistical offices throughout the region. ◆ To publish manuals on best practices for the most common adjustment and estimation procedures in Eurostat.
2.5	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The handbook on seasonal adjustment (Eurostat): To have finalised the handbook on best practices for seasonal adjustments. The handbook is being developed in order to implement the Eurostat seasonal adjustment policy, and will cover both conceptual and methodological aspects. A chapter will be dedicated to informing the user about the quality of seasonal adjustments. The objective is to have a tool for both Eurostat production Units and the National Statistical Institutes. ◆ Setting up of a competence network on seasonal adjustment among NSI's, Universities, and Central Banks: To have improved the co-operation framework for seasonal adjustment activities in the ESS and to implement the co-operative arrangement with the US. The network would bring together the different actors, such as Eurostat, NSI's, Central Banks, and the US Bureau of the Census. It would ease the convergence of Member States policies, and the development (and support) of methods and tools.
2.5	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The increased and widespread implementation of ICT calls for new data and meta-data modelling. ◆ Research in the area of data modelling is lacking and should be given high priority.
2.5	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	None
2.5	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.5	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Seasonal Adjustment, once a year (1-2 April 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Quality in statistics, once a year (2-3 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: European Plan for Research in Official Statistics (EPROS), twice a year (4-5. March 2003, 30-31 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT Committee: Scientific Committee, twice a year (11 April 2003, 12 September 2003) ◆ FAO: Workshops for capacity building in food and agricultural statistics in Central and Eastern European countries.
2.5	Activities of CES	None

2.5	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Finalise the development of a corporate quality evaluation framework for OECD statistics taking advantage of similar work done in other organisations ◆ To implement the quality evaluation framework within the OECD. ◆ To identify and imitate projects for improving the quality of OECD statistics as identified by the evaluation processes. ◆ On-going enhancement of the quality of OECD statistics; ◆ Increased transparency of the OECD in the context of the “information society”; ◆ Improved management of the OECD statistical system; ◆ Improved satisfaction of the OECD staff involved in statistical activities.
2.5	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Encourage and facilitate research activities within the ESS through a comprehensive R&D programme, within the European Framework R&D Programmes. Promote national and international co-operation and Knowledge and Technology Transfer. The objective is to develop methods and tools as well as new methodologies for the producer and user of official statistics. ◆ During the five years 2003-2007, efforts will be concentrated on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the development of new tools and methods for official statistics; ▪ the better conceptualisation and development of statistics to measure new emerging socio-economic phenomena (knowledge society); ▪ the transfer of technology and know-how within the European Statistical System; ▪ the improvement of the quality of the statistical production process and the statistical output. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>R&D in Statistics</u> In R&D in Statistics, the main objective will continue to focus on new tools, methods and techniques for the benefit of the ESS. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure the proper management of the on-going R&D projects (around 40 projects, from 6 previous calls). ▪ To encourage potential consortia to submit proposals under the 6th Framework Research Programme. ▪ To implement a co-ordination mechanism for the projects having a statistical component. ◆ <u>Quality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide assistance for the implementation of internal quality reports. ▪ To continue assisting sectoral working groups in the implementation of new quality reports or the extension of existing ones. ▪ To co-ordinate the activities in the ESS for assessing the quality of statistical output. ▪ To improve the methodological framework for quality evaluation (incl. accuracy, comparability, and coherence). ▪ To define producer-oriented data quality indicators. ◆ <u>European sampling</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide methodological guidance for the assessment of the methods used for the production of European short-term indicators. ▪ To ensure the co-ordination between the sectoral working group, and to provide support, on the new initiatives for designing of surveys for timely European indicators. ◆ <u>Estimation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To provide support for dealing with non-response through the use of calibration techniques and imputation methods. ◆ <u>Seasonal adjustment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To work towards more coherence among the tools used for seasonal adjustment in Eurostat by upgrading existing tools. ▪ Implementing Quality reporting for seasonal adjustment at Eurostat level.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide training on the use of Demetra focusing on the implementation of best practices. ▪ To co-ordinate the activities in the ESS for seasonal adjustment. <p><u>Other Activities of the European Commission:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Short-term analysis</i> The JRC will continue to contribute with studies and appropriate plug-in programs on business cycle analysis and short-term indicators for the Euro zone in the framework of the Euroindicators Web site. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promote the participation in the 6th Framework Programme ◆ Continue implementation of co-operation arrangements with USA and Canada ◆ Give special attention to the domains of Confidentiality, Seasonal Adjustment, European Sampling, Estimation and Quality evaluation <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>R&D in Statistics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define and implement a more permanent strategy for transfer of technology and know-how. ◆ <u>Quality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To define a set of user-oriented data quality indicators. ▪ To implement and follow up of quality reporting in the Candidate countries. ▪ Contribution to the Eurostat work on the harmonisation of quality frameworks (incl. reporting of statistical outputs) between international organisations. ▪ To establish co-operation with the US in the field of quality measurement. ◆ <u>European sampling</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure co-ordination of improvement of surveys for the production of timely European indicators by, if need to be, setting up a European methodology group. ◆ <u>Estimation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To publish manuals on best practices for the most common adjustment and estimation procedures (incl. missing data and nowcasting) in Eurostat. ◆ <u>Seasonal Adjustment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To improve the co-ordination between the NSI's, Universities, and the Central Banks by implementing the new organisation along the lines developed in the proposal for the new organisation (with Steering Committee, Scientific Committee, and the User group. The new organisation strive for providing improved tools for seasonal adjustment for the ESS, bringing de facto more methodological coherence and improved quality of European seasonally adjusted series.
2.5	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A technical report will be published in 2003 containing an analysis of operating characteristics of surveys in developing countries, including costs, design effects and response rates.

2.5	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Data Quality Reference Site (http://dsbb.imf.org) provides information on ongoing work on data quality. ◆ The Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) developed by the IMF consists of a six-part structure that serves as a generic core (http://dsbb.imf.org/dqrs_generic.pdf, also available in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish) for dataset-specific frameworks. ◆ Specific DQAFs are available for six macroeconomic datasets (national accounts, consumer price index, producer price index, government finance statistics, monetary statistics, balance of payments statistics). In collaboration with the World Bank, a DQAF for household income in a poverty context is being developed. Several other specific frameworks, also in collaboration with other international organizations, are in preparation. ◆ The DQAF is used to conduct assessments of countries' statistical systems in the context of the IMF's standards and codes initiative, which aims at promoting financial stability (see http://www.imf.org/external/standards/index.htm). ◆ The IMF also uses the DQAF in support of its technical assistance work. ◆ Work is underway with Eurostat and other international organizations to reconcile, in the approaches used to quality, the aspects that can be harmonized and to explain remaining differences.
2.5	Activities of FAO	<p><u>On-going work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ PARIS21 Agricultural and Rural Statistics Task Team: FAO is closely cooperating with PARIS21 in this area of work. It is the convener of this group. <p><u>Priority methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation of the Programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2010: The Programme will include recommendations on items to be collected during an agricultural census. In addition to items on the structure of the agricultural sector, relevant topics on aquaculture, employment in agriculture will be included. Information on subjects related to food insecurity and vulnerability will be considered for inclusion in the Programme or published as a supplement. Issues related to the use of information technology for the processing, storage, analysis and dissemination of agricultural census data will also be covered.
2.5	Activities of ILO	<p>The ILO has initiated work on the production and dissemination of world and regional estimates for aggregates relating to the proposed set of ILO Decent Work Indicators. In parallel, it is preparing guidelines for the production and dissemination of all major ILO world and regional estimates in order to improve their accuracy and transparency.</p>

PE 2. 6

2.6	Title	Geographical and regional data
2.6	Goal	That geographical information standards are universally adopted and that geographically based information is disseminated as widely and efficiently as possible.
2.6	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development and integration of statistics for sub-national and supra-national regions. ◆ The efficiency, quality and comparability of the geographic dimension of official statistics. ◆ The measurement and reinforcement of economic and social cohesion of the European Union using high-quality statistical information on the European regions. ◆ Availability of necessary regional data for the definition, follow-up and evaluation of regional policies (both national and European Union) and the evaluation of the socio-economic situation and evolution of the regions of Europe. ◆ To design and develop concepts and standards, new tools and technology (GIS), dissemination of geographical products and spatial analysis.
2.6	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p>For ECE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementing the outcomes of Work Sessions on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography. ◆ Preparation of guidelines on cartography for statistical purposes; presentation of the survey on the use of GIS in NSOs. <p>For Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of statistical yearbook "REGIONS". ◆ Complete classification of regions for the new member states. ◆ Publication of methodology for regional household accounts. ◆ Publication of first results of the screening exercise.
2.6	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Creation of the EU <i>Portrait of the Regions</i> website. ◆ Publication of "OECD Regions at Glance" in the Territorial Outlook 2004. ◆ Report on "Geographic Equity in Health in OECD countries". ◆ Addition of sub-national data to World Bank databases.
2.6	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There needs to be closer co-operation among National Statistical Offices, national mapping agencies and national administrative systems if the availability and comparability of spatial information is to be improved.
2.6	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
2.6	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.6	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues involving the integration on Statistics and Geography (2004). ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Urban and Infra-regional Statistics, once a year (4-5 December 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Geographical Information Systems for Statistics, once a year (23-24 October 2003) ◆ OECD: Working Party on Territorial Indicators (June 2003; January 2004) ◆ OECD: Experts Workshop on the analysis of the OECD Territorial Database (June 2004)
2.6	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues involving the integration on Statistics and Geography (2004), to consider: (i) infrastructure requirements for geo-statistics; (ii) cooperation between national statistical institutes and geo-data providers; (iii) solutions for supporting user needs, and (iv) geocoding and georeferencing of datasets used in statistics in different countries.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One-day training session on GIS implementation for interested countries back -to back to the Work Session. <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial</p>
2.6	Activities of OECD	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Enlarge the OECD territorial grid with new Member countries. ◆ Finalise a consistent classification system based on settlement patterns, distribution of employment across major industrial sectors and regional accessibility in order to ensure the comparability of sub-national socio-economic structures and trends across OECD member countries. <p><u>New activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop a set of key indicators for each sub-national territorial unit within OECD Member countries. ◆ Prepare analytical reports on socio-economic structures and trends in sub-national territories across OECD Member countries. ◆ Enhance the analytical detail for assessing the implications and impacts of international, national, regional public policies. ◆ Contribute to the development of territorial policy recommendations to promote sustainable territorial development.
2.6	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> There is now a mutually agreed division of the accession countries' territory into regions. This complies with the provisions of the draft Council Regulation on NUTS (which should be adopted in spring 2003)., In addition, work on the quality of the statistical indicators used for the Community's regional policy (GDP, unemployment rates, population etc.) has given rise to a number of recommendations that will have to be implemented at both Community and Member State levels. In view of the priority given to sustainable development, work is proceeding to enable Eurostat to include in the REGIO database regional statistics on the environment. The Urban Audit II project will be completed in 2003 giving the possibility of also including some statistics on conurbations. ◆ <u>Geographical Information</u> An increasing number of departments within the Commission make use of geographical information systems for the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the policies for which they are responsible. The initiatives on a European spatial data infrastructure will lead to new challenges in this area. Eurostat, as manager of the Commission's GIS reference database, must meet these challenges. An important new initiative to create a European infrastructure for Geographical information (known as "INSPIRE") has been initiated. This initiative is being led by DG ENVIRONMENT with the support of Eurostat and DG JRC and is planned to result in a proposed framework regulation by the end of 2003. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Regular updating of the various domains of the REGIO database in NewCronos; completion of planned extensions to sustainable development and some indicators on agriculture (if feasible) within the database; dissemination of results in the form of a yearbook which includes a CD-ROM; complete integration of the accession countries into the Community system of regional statistics. Evaluation of the extension of Regional statistics to cover specific regional information (e.g. islands, mountain regions, urban areas etc.) Continuation of work on Quality assessment of regional accounts and regional employment/unemployment data; improved coverage of the "industry", "services" and "environment" regional statistics; continued construction of an information system on urban agglomerations (Urban Audit II project).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Geographical information</u> Regular updating of the Commission's geographical reference base (GISCO). Production of maps to illustrate Eurostat publications. Spatial analyses in conjunction with other Eurostat or Commission departments. Further specialised work in the context of INSPIRE (q.v.) on core datasets, metadata, implementation strategies etc. in complement to the legislative and technical work carried out by other partners. Assure the implication of Statistical Institutions in the INSPIRE framework. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS). <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Geographical information</u> Follow up of the INSPIRE initiative. ◆ <u>Regional statistics</u> Creation of a web-site "Portrait of the Regions" with analytical text, graphs and tables; integration of new regional cohesion variables into the database, following the CEIES report. Setting up a methodological database on regional accounts and indicators, including information from Member States and candidate countries.
2.6	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<p>With respect to geographic information, the expected achievements of UN Statistics Division in the next two years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation and organization of the Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia & the Pacific, to be held in Okinawa, Japan, 14-18 July 2003. ◆ Preparation and organization of the twenty-second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), to be convened in 2004. ◆ Preparation and organization of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, to be convened in 2005. ◆ Participation in the UN Geographic Information Working Group activities, including the development of the UN geographic database. ◆ Further development of the UNGEGN website: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ ◆ Development of a Statistical Map Server: a GIS-based application, presenting statistical data and indicators through maps in a hierarchical design, allowing the user to visualise maps by region and by country. ◆ Continuation of promotion of the use of GIS technologies by developing countries, particularly with Census and Surveys, through training courses, UN regional conferences and forums, and the dissemination of publications (i.e. the Handbook on GIS and digital mapping for population and housing censuses). <p>With respect to regional data, UNSD Collaborates with agencies working within the millennium development goals framework in the preparation and dissemination of regional estimates in millenniumindicators.un.org and in the Secretary-General's annual report on progress in implementation of the millennium development goals of the Millennium Declaration.</p>
2.6	Activities of the World Bank	<p>In the next two years, the World Bank will be increasingly involved with maintaining, documenting, and incorporating sub-national data into its databases. This includes internal as well as external systems. We will be augmenting the World Development Indicators CD-ROM product to support mapping and charting of sub-national data.</p>

2.6	Activities of FAO	<p><u>Spatial Information Management and Decision Support Tools</u></p> <p>It is proposed to prepare a report which will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A survey of standard or widely used maps in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ FAO ◆ The UN system ◆ Other major cartographic or GIS institutions. 2. The comparative analysis of the above survey results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Designating some maps at various scales as standard FAO maps for various purposes (GIS use, web display, etc.). 3. Country codes for all countries, disputed areas and countries which no longer exist (such as East Germany). 4. Subnational codes. 5. The above recommendations for the selection or development of the first set of standard maps will address particularly the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Level of detail required for the standards (given the range of GIS applications in use in FAO, a decision has to be taken on this point). ◆ Differentiation between various level of standard maps such as “FAO Standards” and “Recommended Standards”. ◆ Identification of responsible unit(s) for maintaining the standard FAO maps. ◆ Identification of a dissemination procedure for standard maps, e.g. using GeoNetwork.
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PE 2. 7

2.7	Title	Human resource development
2.7	Goal	That personnel involved in statistical work should be appropriately trained and that adequate systems exist for the on-going training and development of staff.
2.7	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Experience of training in general shall be exchanged, its organisation and practises be reviewed, the complementarity between national and international training be investigated. ◆ The needs of countries with small internal resources for training should especially be considered. ◆ The EU considers a new permanent structure for the organisation of European statistical training necessary. ◆ Training is a fundamental basis of building a harmonised, high quality statistical system. The training aspect should in general be seen to be an important element of most meetings, involving exchange of information on tools, methods and best practises. ◆ Joint international training courses should be promoted, taking into account specific needs for training due to changing methods, tools, staff requirements, and the needs for international harmonisation. ◆ As the main systematic contribution for training in the ECE area is provided by the training programme of Eurostat (TES), it is important to ensure a good functioning of the programme.
2.7	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To ensure a well prepared training programme within the framework of TES, by analysing user requirements and by involving the countries in its preparation and execution. ◆ To seek economy of scale in organisation of training among similar countries. ◆ To ensure wide participation in this training programme by distributing information on the programme. ◆ To ensure improved co-ordination of training offered by international actors and NSIs by exchange of information, Eurostat being the centre for co-ordination. Joint information should be made available via the Eurostat Circa Interest group; to evaluate the training component in different working groups offered by Eurostat, OECD or ECE.
2.7	Expected outcomes in the next two years	None
2.7	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coordination in the field of statistical training should be increased. As training on an international level shall fill gaps within national training schemes and gain synergies, the exchange of information is an important and basic issue
2.7	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	None
2.7	Rapporteur	Eurostat
2.7	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Training of European Statisticians (TES), once a year (4 April 2003)
2.7	Activities of CES	None

2.7	Activities of OECD	<p><u>New activity to be undertaken in the next two years:</u></p> <p>To develop and maintain a programme of training events in statistical subject areas, to include: a programme of regular courses provided by OECD staff; a dynamic timetable of events such as seminars/workshops provided by staff and visiting speakers; liaison with other agencies providing training; e-learning materials; a statistical "knowledge base". The events are aimed at both compilers/managers of data and users, and may be open to both OECD staff and external participants.</p>
2.7	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall Goal</u></p> <p>The aim of statistical training for European statisticians is to draw up a general programme based on foreseeable training requirements taking into account the development and needs of the European Statistical System and the needs of transition economies in statistics. The main foreseeable user groups are management, statistical methodologists and the users of statistics. Supply of training courses will be based on regular courses and tailor-made client defined special courses.</p> <p><u>Ongoing work</u></p> <p>The general management of the statistical training programme and related contracts will continue as well as the analysis of the training requirements. The objective is to create a new and lasting organisational structure for the supply of European statistical training as well as for the co-ordination of statistical training within Europe. A working group with EEA countries and CECs is organised once a year. Eurostat will contribute with its functional budget to the training demands of the Member States.</p> <p>Statistical training is part of the technical assistance programme of Phare and other pre-accession programmes, managed by the Enlargement DG. The aim is to support the institution building and enlargement programmes. Countries assisted by these funds will take part in both regularly organised courses and special courses. Tacis, CARDS and Meda programmes will also include some statistical training activities.</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>Improving international co-operation in the formulation of training programmes and their dissemination via an Internet access address common to the ESS and the candidate countries.</p> <p>Continuing implementation of training programmes for European statisticians by the improvement of operational structures and service quality.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>To create a new and lasting organisational structure for the supply of European statistical training as well as for the co-ordination of statistical training within Europe. This includes the set-up of the organisation organising and supplying training.</p> <p>Continuing implementation of training programmes for European statisticians by the improvement of operational structures and service quality.</p> <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>To create a new and lasting organisational structure for the supply of European statistical training as well as for the co-ordination of statistical training within Europe.</p>
2.7	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ILO Training Compendium on Labour Statistics is being produced in modular format, with a separate module for each of the subjects of labour statistics, including survey methods and classifications. The modules will be used by ILO labour statistics specialists in international training courses and workshops, organized by the ILO or by other international or regional agencies. They may also be useful for other training agencies and national statistics offices for in-house training. The first modules, on labour force surveys, informal sector statistics and classifications, will be issued in 2003. ◆ The ILO will continue its programme of training in labour statistics, by organizing training courses in collaboration with the International Training Centre and the ILO Regional Offices, and by participating in training activities organized by national and international agencies.

2.7	Activities of the World Bank:	The World Bank's Global Development Learning Network is to increase access to high quality, up dated, and cost effective training for public and private decision-makers, and improve in turn, their capacity to design, plan and manage, economic, and social development policies. By reaching across geographic borders, time zones, and language barriers, our goal is to Provide the means to deliver cutting-edge knowledge to the development community on current issues, in real time, through virtual face-to-face events and activities.
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PE 2. 8

2.8	Title	Sustainable development
2.8	Goal	To identify best measures for sustainable development; develop indicators or framework to evaluate sustainable development
2.8	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ International organizations have tried to identify a single set of indicators, but the conclusion was that this is not a feasible and/or useful target. In fact, user needs are different in various contexts and there is no scope to try to force them to adopt a single set of indicators. Therefore the focus has been put in the implementation of concrete plans to produce good quality statistics, to be subsequently used for calculating indicators ◆ More attention should be paid to the development of accounting frameworks for measuring sustainable development, able to take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions ◆ Indicators that are currently being used tend to be more relevant to developing countries rather than European countries. ◆ The OECD has provided a motivating force behind ensuring that indicators do not focus exclusively upon economic and environmental issues. Some moves have been made towards putting together agri-environmental indicators, and towards conceptual thinking on production and consumption. ◆ Statistics on sustainable development need to be produced in such a way as to ensure that they can be integrated across the social, economic and environmental spheres of sustainable development.
2.8	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce a set of indicators for sustainable development that are relevant to both developed and developing countries. ◆ To devise a theoretical framework to allow the integration of statistics which is both practical and relevant to policy formulation, execution and monitoring. ◆ Compile a set of indicators suitable for the Commission on Sustainable Development
2.8	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Indicator-based assessment of environmental health status and progress on actions (for 4th ministerial conference on health and environment, Budapest 2004). ◆ Pilot implementation of the EH indicator system in selected countries (WHO Euro). ◆ Development and compilation of a set of indicators on sustainable development supporting the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (Eurostat). ◆ Compilation and improvement of the set of Environmental Pressure Indicators (Eurostat). ◆ Compilation and improvement of indicators on integrating environmental concerns relating to agriculture, energy, transport and industry (Eurostat). ◆ Compilation of a set of indicators on sustainable development supporting the Commission for Sustainable Development (Eurostat).
2.8	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More coordination is needed between national agencies in charge of sustainable development and national statistical offices ◆ Better coordination is necessary between the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and other international organizations active in this field. OECD-Eurostat-ECE is planning to establish a Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Statistics with the participation of countries and international organizations ◆ Necessity for active cooperation of NSOs in developing measures for sustainable development. ◆ Evaluate the follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit on sustainable development.

2.8	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sustainable development - indicators and accounting frameworks - could be a candidate topic for a seminar session of the CES in 2004
2.8	Rapporteur	OECD
2.8	Meetings	None
2.8	Activities of CES	ECE is planning to start statistical activities related to Sustainable Development, as a regional complement to UNSD activities. The activities proposed by ECE will be coordinated with those of other organizations and reviewed through a steering group to be created, which in turn will report to the Bureau
2.8	Activities of OECD	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The OECD will continue to work with the UN, IMF and World Bank to refine the set of 48 indicators agreed for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which include measurable economic, social, environmental and partnership targets. ◆ Further development of environmental de-coupling indicators <p><u>Priority Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce an annual report for the UN General Assembly and other bodies showing progress towards the MDGs. ◆ The OECD will continue to work with the World Bank, the UN High Commission for Human Rights, UN ECA and PARIS21 to establish a set of qualitative indicators to measure "governance" in developing and transition economies.
2.8	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>NB:</u> For Eurostat see also the information described under PE 5.1, PE 2.8 has close links to many other programme elements.</p> <p><u>Overall Goal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The EU Strategy on Sustainable Development was adopted by the European Council in June 2001 and sets objectives for economic, social and environmental sustainability. The integration of sustainability and environmental considerations into all relevant statistical domains has gained importance. In line with the Amsterdam Treaty, successive European Councils have made policy commitments on integrating environmental concerns into other policies, including follow-up through better indicators. These new programmes will influence the work on sustainability and environment statistics and indicators, but also social statistics and statistics such as transport, energy, health and agriculture, as well as environment accounts. A complementary goal is also to enhance data collection and analysis on global sustainable development. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development and compilation of a set of indicators on sustainable development supporting the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. ◆ Compilation and improvement of the set of Environmental Pressure Indicators. ◆ Compilation and improvement of indicators on integrating environmental concerns relating to agriculture, energy, transport and industry. Work in accordance with the Communication on statistical needs for agri-environment indicators and the Communication on integrating environment and sustainable development into energy and transport policy. ◆ Compilation of a set of indicators on sustainable development supporting the Commission for Sustainable Development. <p><u>Work dependent on financing from other Commission DGs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improvement of basic statistics needed for environmental and sustainability indicators (Environment DG). ◆ Improvement of environmental indicators for transport, including estimation of energy consumption, pollutant emissions, noise and waste from transport (Transport and Energy DG). <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce easily understandable environmental and sustainability indicators in co-operation with other Commission services and the European Environment Agency. ◆ To work in a Task Force with Member States work on methodological issues related to indicators on sustainable development. This will include the analysis and development of suitable frameworks and identification of indicators for sustainable development, in line with the EU SD Strategy. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A set of EU indicators of sustainable development is to be developed to monitor progress in the EU's sustainability strategy (see the Task force above).
2.8	Activities of UN Statistics Division	The UNSD collaborates with UNEP and other concerned agencies of the UN system on compiling and reporting sustainable development indicators within the framework of the environment goal and targets of the Millennium Declaration.
2.8	Activities of WHO Regional Office for Europe	<p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation, testing feasibility for data collection and linkage analyses to produce evidence-based assessments of environmental health status, and presentation methods for supplying information to decision-making. • Pilot testing of the EH indicator system (incl. the recommended reporting methodology) for applicability to national health protection and prevention policies and actions in selected countries of the WHO/European region. • Implementation of the project: Development of Environment and Health Indicators for the EU countries" (contract between WHO/Europe and EC DG Sanco) <p><u>Priority objectives over the next two years:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a comprehensive environment and health indicators system linked with assessment and reporting mechanisms to be endorsed by the Budapest Conference for implementation in the WHO European Region. The system will be applicable for both national and international analysis. • Pilot indicator-based report on environmental and health progress in the WHO European region demonstrating system applicability in the pilot MS. • Methodology and case-studies of environmental burden of disease assessments; • Framework allowing systematic expansion of the system to accommodate further applications of information in support of policy formulation and assessment. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal of methodology for surveys applying cost-effective protocols and designed to gathering information on important public health impacts related to the immediate living environment (e.g. indoor air, environmental tobacco smoke, noise, habitation facilities and housing). The information collected enables assessing EBD and monitoring of policies through environmental health indicators. • Integrate development of Children, Environment and Health indicators, as well as work on the extended set of indicators in all EH areas in the general framework. <p><u>Meetings planned to be organised in the next two years:</u></p> <p>Periodic technical meetings on methodological issues in environment and health assessments as well as the statistical data which serve as input for the EH indicators system. The meetings gather invited national professionals, professionals dealing with evaluation of national action programmes on public health and/or environment, statisticians and external experts. Parallel to these, agreement on a common approach will be created in collaboration with the relevant international agencies to avoid duplication of efforts, minimize the burden of reporting by the countries and to use the same indicators where there are similar needs.</p>

2.8	Activities of the World Bank:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Little Green Data Book presents a number of environmental indicators based on the World Development Indicators and its accompanying CD-ROM. Under the headings of agriculture, forests, biodiversity, energy, emissions and pollution, water and sanitation, and 'greener' national accounts, the Little Green Data Book presents key indicators of the environment and its relationship to people for more than 200 countries. ◆ Rural Development Indicators Handbook presents a number of indicators based on rural economic performance, natural resource management, and rural well-being. These indicators are presented for over 200 countries, in addition to regional and income-level tables. ◆ The Bank is and will be contributing to the development of core environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the World Bank, United Nations, and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. A recent publication, "The environment and the Millennium Development Goals", highlights some of the World Bank's work in this area (published in summer 2002). ◆ 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 200 countries and each country page presents more than 50 indicators. ◆ 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 Adjusted Net Savings (genuine savings) for more than 120 countries.
2.8	Activities of ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The ILO has developed two of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators: 11 - Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, and 45 - Unemployment rate of 15-to-24 year olds. Efforts are under way to enhance the geographic coverage of these indicators.