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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices

Eighth Meeting
Geneva, 10-12 May 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on 10 May 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting is organised jointly with the International Labour Office (ILO)

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Information items:
 - Report by the ILO
 - Report by the IMF
 - Report by Eurostat
 - Report of the Ottawa Group
 - Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS)
4. Systems of price indices
5. Concepts and measurement – defining the (ideal) measure for the purpose
6. Core inflation measurement
7. Future work
8. Structured product descriptions
9. The CPI Manual – Usefulness, applicability, completeness
10. CPI measurement problems in emerging economies
11. Other CPI issues
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the Report

Provisional timetable and notes on the items of the agenda

The meeting on Consumer Price Indices is convened jointly by UNECE and ILO pursuant to the decision that the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians took at its meeting in October 2005 (see report of the meeting CES/BUR.2005/21).

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2006

10.00-10.10 Items 1 and 2: Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

10.10-10.40 Item 3: Information items

Information on events and activities will be provided by the following:

- Report by the ILO
- Report by the IMF
- Report by Eurostat
- Report of the Ottawa Group
- Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS)

10.40-13.00 Item 4: Systems of price indices

10.40-10.50 Discussant: Mr. Keith Woolford, Australian Bureau of Statistics

10.50-11.10 Invited paper: Systems of Price Indices and supporting frameworks
Author: Mr. David Fenwick, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

11.10-11.30 Invited paper: A family of Indices in the Israeli CPI
Author: Mr. Yoel Finkel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel

11.30-11.50 Coffee break

11.50-12.10 Invited paper: Comparing inflation between United States and Europe using the methods of the European Union's Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices
Author: Mr. Walter F. Lane and Mary L. Schmidt, Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States

12.10-12.30 Invited paper: Methodological developments in the 2005 revision of the CPI in Japan
Author: Mr. Makoto Shimizu, Statistics Bureau, Japan

12.30-13.00 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers

13.00-15.00 Lunch**15.00-18.00 Item 5: Concepts and measurements – Defining the (ideal) measure for the purpose**

- 15.00-15.10 Discussant: Mr. Erwin Diewert, University of British Columbia
- 15.10-15.30 Invited paper: Concepts of cost of living index in the Russian Federation
Author: Federal Service of State Statistics, Russian Federation
- 15.30-15.50 Invited paper: The Re-design of the Dutch CPI
Author: Mr. Jaan de Haan, Statistics Netherlands
- 15.50-16.10 Coffee break
- 16.10-16.30 Invited paper: Fixed-basket price index and COLI: International Standards
Author: Ms. Valentina Stoevska, International Labour Office
- 16.30-16.50 Invited paper: The price-updating of weights in the CPI
Author: Mr. Carsten B. Hansen, UNECE
- 16.50-17.10 Invited paper: Stability of CPIs in consideration of changes in sample size
Author: Ms. Alina Gluchowska, Central Statistical Office of Poland
- 17.10-18.00 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers

THURSDAY 11 MAY**09.30-12.30 Item 6: Core inflation measurement**

- 09.30-09.40 Discussant: Mr. Yoel Finkel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel
- 09.40-10.00 Invited paper: Core inflation: measures and their choice
Author: Mr. Mick Silver, International Monetary Fund
- 10.00-10.20 Invited paper: Swedish core inflation measures
Author: Mr. Peter Nilsson, Statistics Sweden
- 10.20-10.40 Invited paper: A user point of view on core inflation measures
Author: Mr. Laurent Bilke, European Central Bank
- 10.40-11.00 Discussions and comments on invited papers
- 11.00-11.20 Coffee break

- 11.20-11.30 Invited paper: Methodological base and practice of core inflation estimation in the Russian Federation
Author: Federal Service of State Statistics, Russian Federation
- 11.30-11.40 Supp. paper: Inflation target – implementation of a CPI-ATE in Norway
Author: Mr. Lasse Sandberg, Statistics Norway
- 11.40-11.50 Supp. paper: Core inflation measurement
Author: Mr. Jiri Mrazek, Czech Statistical Office
- 11.50-12.00 Supp. paper: Where is the Core of Inflation? Alternative measures from the Italian CPI
Author: Mr. A. Brunetti, Mr. C. De Gregorio, Mr. R. Monducci, Mr. F. Polidoro, ISTAT, Italy
- 12.00-12.10 Supp. paper: Alternative indicators of core inflation for Norway
Author: Mr. Einar W. Nordbo, Central Bank of Norway
- 12.10-12.30 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.00 Item 7: Future work

Based on a proposal by the CPI Steering Group the meeting will discuss and agree on future ECE work on price indices and on the agenda of a possible joint ECE/ILO Meeting on CPI in 2008. The Secretariat will submit proposals on the basis of country suggestions and on the discussions as the meeting proceeds for the approval of the Conference of European Statisticians.

15.00-15.50 Item 8: Structured Product Descriptions

- 15.00-15.10 Discussant: Mr. Timo Koskimaki, Statistics Finland
- 15.10-15.30 Invited paper: Integration between CPIs and PPPs
Author: Ms. Silke Stapel, Eurostat, and Mr. David Roberts, OECD
- 15.30-15.50 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers
- 15.50-16.10 Coffee Break
- 16.10-17.30 Item 9: The CPI Manual – Usefulness, applicability and completeness**
- 16.10-16.20 Discussant: Mr. Peter Hill, United Kingdom

16.20-16.40 Supp. paper: Information note on the current status and future revision of the manual
 Author: Ms. Valentina Stoevska, International Labour Office

16.40-17.00 Supp. paper: Updating the CPI Manual
 Author: Mr. Peter Hill, United Kingdom

17.00-17.30 Roundtable discussion

FRIDAY 12 MAY

09.30-12.30 Item 10: CPI measurement problems in emerging economies

09.30-09.40 Discussant: Mr. David Fenwick, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

09.40-10.00 Invited paper: Price collection in unstable market conditions
 Author: Mr. Miroslav Jankovic, Mr. Dragi Stojiljkovic and Ms. Tatjana Stanojevic-Miladinovic, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

10.00-10.20 Invited paper: The Bulgarian CPI and the index of a small basket of goods and services
 Author: Ms. Albena Dancheva, National Institute of Statistics of Bulgaria

10.20-10.40 Invited paper: System of price indices
 Author: Ms. Natella Guliyeva, State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan

10.40-11.00 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers

11.00-11.20 Coffee break

11.20-11.40 Invited paper: Design of the Georgian CPI
 Author: Ms. Lia Mdinardze, State Department for Statistics of Georgia

11.40-12.00 Supp. Paper: To be decided
 Author:

12.00-12.30 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-17.00 Item 11: Other CPI issues

14.30-14.40 Discussant: Mr. George Beelen, Statistics Canada

- 14.40-15.00 Invited paper: Is it feasible to measure owner-occupied housing costs in a CPI using the user cost approach?
Author: Mr. Keith Woolford, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- 15.00-15.20 Invited paper: E-commerce in the Israeli CPI
Author: Mr. Yoel Finkel, Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel
- 15.20-15.40 Invited paper: A probability Sample Strategy for improving the Quality of the Consumer Price index Survey using the information of the Business Register
Author: Mr. L. Biggeri and Mr. P. Falorsi, ISTAT, Italy
- 15.40-16.00 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers
- 16.00-16.20 Coffee break
- 16.20-16.40 Invited paper: Experiences from compilation of the Hungarian CPI
Author: Mr. Minary Borbala, Hungarian Central Statistical Office
- 16.40-16.50 Supp. paper: Global and regional estimates of price inflation
Author: Ms. Valentina Stoevska, International Labour Office
- 16.50-17.00 Discussions and comments on invited and supporting papers
- 17.00-17.10 Item 12: Other business**
- 17.10-17.30 Item 13: Adoption of the Report**
