

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/AC.68/2004/21
6 December 2004

Original: ENGLISH

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts
(Paris, 12-15 October 2004)

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. A joint UNECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts was held in Paris from 12-15 October 2004. It was attended by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. The European Community (Eurostat) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) attended.

2. Mr. François Lequiller (OECD) acted as Chair, and Ms. Irena Tvariionaviciute (Statistics Lithuania) was elected Vice-Chair.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

3. The 2004 OECD Meeting of National Accounts Experts was organised jointly with the UNECE. Most of the topics were related to the current process for updating the 1993 SNA and therefore it was essential that a large consultation with all countries in the UNECE region be ensured.

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:

- (a) 1993 SNA Review: financial issues;
- (b) 1993 SNA Review: general government accounts;
- (c) 1993 SNA Review: non-financial assets;
- (d) National accounts data at the OECD;
- (e) International comparability of productivity measures;
- (f) Open Session: supply and use and input – output frameworks in the compilation of National Accounts.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE MEETING

5. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current update of the 1993 SNA and to obtain countries' input to the proposed changes. Progress reports of the Task Force on Financial Services, Task Force on the Harmonisation of Public Sector Accounts and the Canberra II group (non-financial assets) were given.

6. The participants were informed about transforming the OECD "Expert Group on National Accounts" into the "Working Party on National Accounts" - a Subsidiary Body of the OECD Committee on Statistics. Concern was expressed that the reorganization may make the meetings closed to non-OECD countries and thus complicate their involvement in the SNA review process. There was common agreement that it is important to give all countries an opportunity to contribute to the SNA review. Mr. Lequillier will seek the solution to this problem and raise the issue with the OECD Committee on Statistics.

7. The OECD secretariat will prepare a detailed summary of the discussion.

RECOMMENDED FUTURE WORK

8. The next meeting of the OECD Working Party on National Accounts will be held on 10-14 October 2005. Issues linked to the 1993 SNA review will dominate the agenda. It was recommended that the meeting in 2005 once again be open to the UNECE countries that are non-members of OECD.

* * * * *