

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

First meeting of the 2004/2005 Bureau  
Washington, D.C. (United States), 18-19 October 2004

Item 13: Dates and venue of  
the next meeting

**DATES AND TIMING OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF  
THE BUREAU AND THE CES IN 2005**

**Note prepared by the ECE secretariat**

**BUREAU MEETING IN FEBRUARY 2005**

1. At its meeting on 8 June 2004 in Paris, the Bureau tentatively agreed to have its February meeting on 10-11 February 2005 in Geneva.
2. The Bureau is invited to confirm the dates.

**DATES AND TIMING OF THE 2005 CES AND THE OECD STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

3. On 8 June it was also agreed that the 2005 CES plenary session will take place in Geneva on 13-15 June 2005. The meeting of the OECD Statistical Committee will be held back-to-back with the Conference.
4. Since the format and the timing of the plenary sessions of the Conference have been decided by the Bureau some 10 years ago, any changes need to be discussed and approved by the Bureau.

**In the past, including June 2004 Conference**

5. Some 10 years ago, the Bureau decided that the Conference should be held for two and a half days starting at 14:30 on the first day. A meeting of the Bureau was always held over lunch from 12:00 to 14:00 to discuss issues that should be brought to the attention of the Conference. Since 2002, the first day is dedicated to formal business (Integrated Presentation, progress reports on projects, in-depth discussion of one statistical area) while the second and the third have been dedicated to seminars on topics selected by the Bureau in advance. So far, this practice has proved successful.

**Proposals for the future**

6. The OECD Statistical Committee was created in June 2004 and the Bureau recommended that both events be held back-to-back. The secretariats of ECE and OECD had some preliminary discussions after the June Conference. There is general agreement to continue to change the venue of the Conference – every second year in Paris. However, it should be noted that the meeting room and the technical equipment at La Défense, the new OECD premises, were very unsatisfactory in June 2004. This is also evident from the evaluation questionnaire that the ECE secretariat circulated among the participants at the CES plenary session.
7. From the point of view of the ECE secretariat, in order to accommodate both events, and for their smooth implementation to the satisfaction of the OECD and ECE secretariats, the following options are possible for the meetings in Geneva:

a) *The CES Conference opens as usual on Monday at 14:30, with the Bureau meeting taking place beforehand between 12:00-14:00. The OECD Committee starts on Thursday morning at 9:30 and ends on Friday by 12:30 if it is held for one and a half days.*

- There will not be any inconvenience to the Conference if this option is accepted.
- This may create some inconveniences for the OECD secretariat if some of the participants leave on Thursday evening and do not stay for the Friday morning session.

b) *The CES Conference opens on Monday morning at 9:30 and closes on Wednesday by 12:30. The OECD meeting starts on Wednesday at 14:30 and continues until the end of Thursday if the OECD meeting is held for one and a half days.*

The inconveniences for the Conference are as follows:

- the Bureau will have to hold its meeting on Sunday evening;
- the CES plenary sessions will have to change their format: the formal business will be held on Monday morning. However, the running of the two seminars may suffer from the fact that each of them have to be held over two days - Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, for example, for the first seminar. This will affect the travelling days of those who report to the seminar and, more importantly, may affect the flow of the discussions.

c) *The CES Conference opens as usual on Monday at 14:30 with the Bureau meeting taking place beforehand between 12:00-14:00. The OECD Committee is held just for one full day, starting on Thursday morning at 9:00 with a lunch break between 12:00-14:00 and finishing by 17:00.*

- There will not be any specific inconvenience with regard to timing and participation, provided that the OECD secretariat decides to have a one-day meeting.
- The Bureau is invited to discuss the three possible options and to make its recommendations on how the two meetings should be organised in future.

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