

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2004/2005 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 10-11 February 2005

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Bureau meeting will take place in the Palais des Nations. The meeting will start at 9:30 on Thursday, 10 February 2005. Participants should allow for about 30 minutes before the meeting in order to obtain their entry passes from the Security Office in Villa les Feuillantines, which is located just across the road from the Main Gate at Place des Nations. It is expected that the meeting will end around 17:00 on Friday, 11 February.

The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

1. **In-depth review of selected statistical areas and review of the 2005 version of the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work Programmes**

The in-depth review of selected statistical areas is customary for the February meetings of the Bureau. At its October 2004 meeting, the Bureau selected five areas for in-depth review and designated the Rapporteurs for preparing the reports as follows:

- (a) Technical cooperation (report by Eurostat) **CES/BUR.2005/18**;
- (b) Migration statistics (report by United States with IMF and the World Bank) **CES/BUR.2005/19**;
- (c) Income and consumption (report by Statistics Canada) **CES/BUR.2005/20**;
- (d) Labour statistics (reports by ILO and Italy) **CES/BUR.2005/21**;
- (e) Transport statistics (reports by ECMT and Statistics Denmark) **CES/BUR.2005/22**.
The UNECE secretariat will also present a note on the revision of the classification used in transport statistics **TRANS/WP.6/2004/1/Rev.1**;
- (f) Human resources development and training: in October 2004, the Bureau decided to review the area and identified potential offices who could prepare a paper. However, none of the statistical offices contacted was able to do so. The Bureau needs to decide on the future review of the topic, including the possible Rapporteur.

2. **Integrated Presentation**

- (a) Review of the issues and problems indicated in the IP

The Bureau will be invited to comment briefly and make proposals for amendments/changes to the 'Issues and Problems' for those statistical areas in the IP that

are not reviewed in-depth under agenda item 1. The current text in this section is based on the 2004 edition with some changes introduced by the ECE secretariat.

(b) Procedure for reviewing the issues and problems indicated for each statistical area in future; statistical activities of Canada and United States; testing the new IP classification (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/23**

In previous years the Bureau used to review the items “issues and problems” and “attention of the Conference should be drawn to” for all programme activities in the IP that were not reviewed in-depth, and formulate concrete recommendations for amending the text in the IP. Last year, this kind of review was undertaken by the ECE secretariat and not by the Bureau. Furthermore, in February 2004, the Bureau agreed that important statistical activities carried out by countries such as Canada and United States should also be included in the IP. In October 2004, the Bureau approved a new classification of the statistical activities to be used in the IP. All three issues need to be briefly discussed by the Bureau. The ECE secretariat will prepare a short note.

3. Election of a new Bureau in June 2005 (Note by ECE) CES/BUR.2005/24

The election of the new Bureau is due in June 2005. The Bureau may want to review the procedure and rules governing the election

4. Meeting with a representative of the Bureau of the Economic Commission for Europe

In recent years, members of the Bureau of the Economic Commission for Europe have met with the Bureaux of ECE’s Principal Subsidiary Bodies once a year. The Lithuanian Ambassador is responsible for liaising with the CES Bureau. The meeting will take place in the Palais des Nations.

5. Preparations for the 2005 plenary session and the two seminars

- (a) Preparation of the formal session on the first day: selection of the topic for in-depth discussion based on the Rapporteurs’ reports.
- (b) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2005 plenary session (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/25**.
- (c) Financing of Central Asian countries participating in the CES.
- (d) Organization of the first seminar session - Improved Data Reporting (Note by the United States) **CES/BUR.2005/26**.
- (e) Organization of the second seminar - Measurement of Sustainable Development (Note by Statistics Sweden) **CES/BUR.2005/27**.

The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the three sessions: a formal session, including its duration in future, and the two seminar sessions. The ECE secretariat will prepare a draft outline of the provisional agenda and timetable for review by the Bureau.

For several years up to 2003, Eurostat financed the participation of the Heads of NSOs of transition countries. In 2004, the World Bank provided some financial support for the Central Asian countries plus Belarus. The Bureau will be invited to discuss the financing of the participation of the CIS countries in future.

6. Progress report of the Task Force on Confidentiality and Microdata (report by Dennis Trewin) **CES/BUR.2005/28**

In October 2004, the Bureau reviewed a report of the Task Force, made some recommendations and decided that a new version of the document be presented to the Bureau at its February 2005 meeting. It is planned that the international principles on the provision of access to microdata will be presented to the Conference in June 2005 for endorsement.

7. Progress reports on the ECE Steering Groups

(a) Task Force on Common Metadata Framework: outcome of Phase 1 (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/29**

The TF was set up in 2004 (CES/BUR.2004/44) with the purpose of organising available information about statistical metadata related to official statistics into a framework that can be used by national statistical organizations in their development of metadata systems. It is expected that international organizations will gain benefits from this.

(b) Crime statistics (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/30**

An Organising Committee composed of Albania, Canada, Italy, Slovenia, United States, UNODC and ECE was created in 2004 to organise the joint UNECE/UNODC meeting on crime statistics that took place in November 2004 in Geneva. The meeting agreed on the need for improvement in the quality, comparability and content of crime data at the international level. It was suggested to create a Task Force to support the ECE and UNODC in their work towards a study of methodological issues that can affect victimization surveys as related to promotion of consistency and better implementation of victimization surveys. The TOR for the creation of a Task Force on Victim Surveys will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(c) Gender statistics (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/31**

A UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics was organized in cooperation with UNDP-UNFPA-WHO in October 2004 in Geneva. The meeting agreed on the need to continue the process already underway in NSOs to include the gender perspective in data production, analysis and dissemination. However, there are various aspects that still require attention and work in order to put programmes of gender statistics on firmer ground. At the session, it was proposed that a Steering Group be created to advise the Bureau on the work on gender statistics. It was also suggested that three Task Forces be created to work on gender sensitisation training, time-use surveys, and violence against women. The ECE secretariat will present the proposal to the Bureau.

(d) Population and housing censuses (Note by ECE) **CES/BUR.2005/32**

A Steering Group was set up in 2003 to provide guidance and assistance in the planning and execution of the new recommendations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in the ECE region. Important work sessions were held in Geneva in 2004 on population censuses (23-25 November) and housing censuses (26 November). The ECE secretariat will report on the outcome of the sessions, including some proposals for the setting up of Task Forces.

8. Indicators related to the MDGs and their reporting

At its meeting in October 2004, the Bureau expressed concern about the availability and quality of data for reporting on the indicators related to the MDGs. The Bureau considered it important to use the UN global reports as an opportunity to highlight the problems with MDG reporting. The ECE secretariat learned that various MDG reports are being prepared within the UN. The Bureau is invited to discuss possible actions in this direction.

9. Issues related to social statistics (Note by ECE and Eurostat) CES/BUR.2005/33

The Bureau reviewed the issues and problems related to social statistics in October 2004. Concern was expressed that not enough is being done to improve progress in social statistics at the international level and that the area is not sufficiently covered by international standards and definitions. The Bureau tried to identify practical steps forward to improve international work on social statistics. The Bureau considered that one possibility was to organise a joint Eurostat/ECE meeting on social statistics back-to-back with the EU Meeting of Social Statistics Directors. The ECE and Eurostat will report on how to link the ECE meetings on social statistics with the Eurostat meetings of the directors of social statistics.

10. Follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau (Note by ECE) CES/BUR.2005/34

The Bureau will review the document that the ECE secretariat is preparing for each meeting.

11. Dates and venue of the next Bureau meeting

Under this agenda item, the Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings.

12. Any other business

Implementation of the ECE Statistical Programme 2004 – a note for information

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