

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second meeting of the 2004/2005 Bureau
Geneva, 10-11 February 2005

Item 3: Election of a
new Bureau in June
2005

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
FOR THE 2005/2006 AND 2006/2007 PERIOD**

Note prepared by the ECE secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians expires at the closing of the 2005 plenary session, on 15 June 2005. At the 2005 plenary session, therefore, elections for a Chair and for Vice-Chairs will be held for the two-year period June 2005 to June 2007.
2. The elections of the Bureau are governed by the rules adopted by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session when new work methods were approved to reflect the role of the Bureau as a "Steering Body" of the Conference. The 2003 plenary session amended these rules concerning the size of the Bureau. The 2004 plenary session agreed that the Chairman of the OECD Committee on Statistics should participate in the work of the CES Bureau as a permanent member.
3. When elections are held, the ECE secretariat prepares a note explaining the procedure, which is distributed to the Conference members in advance. For many years, the note has always included two annexes: annex 1 containing an excerpt from the report of the 1991 plenary session, paras. 97 to 99 of the report on "Future role and functioning of the Bureau of the conference"; and annex 2 that represents the annex II to the 1991 report, called "Report on structure and relations".
4. It is proposed that a consolidated document that describes the rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau be prepared rather than referring to excerpts from previous reports. Furthermore, some changes need to be introduced to the rules to reflect the changes that were agreed upon by the Conference in 2003 and 2004. The section overleaf on the "Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau" presents the consolidated document. The ECE secretariat has merged the two annexes mentioned above, reflected the amendments agreed in 2003 and 2004 and introduced some editorial changes.

Proposal

The Bureau is invited to comment on the proposal for producing a consolidated document comprising the rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau. The Bureau is also invited to review and agree on the text as presented in the section overleaf.

RULES GOVERNING THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU

1. The Structure and Relations of the Conference were adopted in 1953. The 1991 plenary session revised the 1953 Report on Structure and Relations in order to adjust it to the new conditions for international statistical cooperation. The plenary session also adopted new rules that govern the election and the work of its Bureau, taking into account its new role as a Steering body of the Conference. The 2003 and 2004 plenary sessions agreed on amendments to the size and the composition of the CES Bureau.

Role and functioning of the Bureau of the Conference

Functioning of the Bureau

- (i) Two meetings of the Bureau of a duration of one to two full days should be held in the second half of February and October each year. The subjects of discussion, as well as the need for the availability of all secretariat experts for the February meeting, suggest that the meeting should be held in Geneva.
- (ii) A third Bureau meeting could regularly be convened during the first day of the plenary session.
- (iii) Further meetings of the Bureau could be determined by the Bureau members or the Chairman of the Conference as the need arises.
- (iv) The documentation necessary for the Bureau meetings would be determined by the Bureau members in each case.
- (v) Invitations to Bureau meetings are issued by the secretariat. As a rule, they should be mailed not less than six weeks in advance.
- (vi) For purposes of consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat may take initiatives on matters affecting the implementation of the work programme of the Conference, or in relation to other issues that are of interest to the Conference and the Bureau.

Election and composition of the Bureau

- (i) Any member of the Conference is eligible for membership of the Bureau of the Conference. The members of the Bureau undertake to devote the time necessary to an adequate discharge of their duties.
- (ii) The Conference elects its Bureau for a period of two years.
- (iii) The election by the Conference is made on the basis of a proposal by the most senior previous Chairman of the Conference, present at the plenary session concerned. The proposal should be prepared in such a way that it maximizes the chances of being adopted by consensus.
- (iv) If no previous Chairman of the Conference is present at the plenary session concerned or in exceptional cases, the Bureau proposes the designation of a member of the Conference at the beginning of the plenary session, who will assume the task of preparing the proposal for the composition of the Bureau.
- (v) The Bureau is composed of up to 8 members, of whom 6 members should be from the UNECE member countries and the remaining one or two places be reserved for possible

candidates from countries in other regions. The Bureau may invite to the meetings of the Bureau anyone who may facilitate its work.

- (vi) If a Bureau seat falls vacant, the Bureau may decide to co-opt a member until the time of the next plenary session, when a new Bureau member is elected.
- (vii) Bureau members can be elected to four successive Bureaus. Any previous Bureau member can be re-elected to the Bureau after an interruption of at least two years.
- (viii) The Chairman of the Conference is elected by the Conference from among the members of the Bureau. The term of office is two years.
- (ix) The election is made on the basis of a proposal by the member of the Conference who is responsible for the proposal of Bureau composition.
- (x) If the post of Chairman of the Conference falls vacant, the Bureau may decide to designate an Acting Chairman from among the Bureau members until the time of the next plenary session, when a new Chairman is elected by the Conference.
- (xi) A Chairman of the Conference may be re-elected once. Any previous Chairman may be re-elected Chairman after an interruption of at least two years.
- (xii) Standing invitations are extended to the Director-General of Eurostat, the Chief Statistician of the OECD Secretariat, the Chairman of the OECD Committee on Statistics and the Chairman of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS to attend meetings of the Bureau as permanent observers. The Director of the UN Statistical Division continues to participate in Bureau meetings as representative of the UN secretariat.

Structure and relations of the Conference

2. The structure and relations of the Conference that were adopted by the Third Regional Meeting of European Statisticians (Geneva, 15-19 June 1953; document E/CN.3/CONF.3/1;E/ECE/167) were amended by the thirty-ninth plenary session in 1991 in order to reflect the new requirements for statistical cooperation in the UNECE region, which had emerged from contemporary transition, integration and other processes of cooperation in the region (report of the Conference, document ECE/CES/38). The 1991 Conference agreed on the structure and relations as set out below.

3. The Conference of European Statisticians meets as a continuing body under the joint auspices of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

4. Objectives

- (i) To improve national statistics and their international comparability with regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialised Agencies and other appropriate bodies as necessary.
- (ii) To promote close coordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices.
- (iii) To respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the UNECE region and between the UNECE region and other regions.

5. Membership

The head of the statistical service of any country participating in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe may be a member of the Conference.

6. Participation in the work of the Conference by statisticians from International Agencies

The directors of statistical activities in the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters and the Economic Commission for Europe shall be closely associated with all work of the Conference. The officers responsible for statistical activities in other international agencies shall also be invited to participate when their special fields of interest are involved.

7. Activities

The Conference shall provide a forum for work on all statistical matters which are of interest to its members. In particular, it may:

- (i) decide on the collection and dissemination of such internationally comparable statistics of UNECE member countries as are required by policy makers, enterprises, researchers and the general public in the UNECE region;
- (ii) promote the development of statistical methodological guidelines and standards (concepts, definitions, classifications) as required for purposes of international comparability of statistics in the region;
- (iii) assist in the improvement of the statistical infrastructure of countries both within and outside the UNECE region;
- (iv) coordinate international statistical cooperation and the statistical work programme of the UNECE, using the work programme of the Conference as the basic management tool for international statistical coordination;
- (v) make the results of its work available to national statistical offices, international organizations, enterprises or any other user;
- (vi) arrange for any study that may be required to further its objectives.

8. Officers

The Conference shall elect a Bureau and a chairman according to rules laid down by the Conference.

9. Secretariat

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe places at the disposal of the Conference such staff and facilities as may be necessary to assist it in the accomplishment of its objectives and work programmes

10. Meetings of the Conference

Meetings of the Conference shall take place regularly once a year, preferably in June, at a time fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat. Additional meetings may be convened by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat.

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