

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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

Item 5(b): Preparations for
the CES 2005 plenary
session

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CES 2005 PLENARY SESSION

Note prepared by the ECE secretariat

1. Attached is the draft agenda and timetable for the 2005 plenary session for consideration by the Bureau. It is proposed that both the organization of the 2005 plenary session and the organization of the plenary sessions in subsequent years be discussed.
2. **The duration of the session on “Formal business”**. Prior to 2002, the “formal business” session lasted longer than half a day. In 2002, the Conference changed the organization of the CES plenary session and decided that it should consist of three parts: formal business (half a day), a seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems (1 day) and a seminar on emerging issues (1 day).
3. However, since 2002, several projects were launched by the Conference. The presentation of the reports on progress made by the Task Forces and the discussion of the proposed guidelines and recommendations require a certain amount of time at the plenary sessions. Some examples include the Multinational Enterprises Project, Guidelines on Confidentiality and Access to Microdata, and the 2010 Census Recommendations.
4. The in-depth review by the Conference of one statistical area selected by the Bureau also requires time for discussion. In the last years, the two topics that were discussed, Crime statistics (2003) and Environment statistics (2004), led to some recommendations for further work. In October 2004, the Bureau decided that the topic for in-depth discussion in future should be selected after consultation with the CES members, in the same way that the electronic consultation has been organised by the ECE secretariat over the last two years for the selection of the seminars’ topics. The discussion of both issues requires time during the plenary session, even if it is only 10 or 15 minutes. Furthermore, it is proposed that, in future, the Conference allocate some time to discuss the Issues and Problems identified in the IP (see document CES/BUR.2005/23 and CES/BUR.2005/37). The “formal business” session also includes the opening address by the Executive Secretary, a paper on the Matters arising from the ECE session and the presentation of the UNSD Director on the outcome of the Statistical Commission.
5. According to the strict UN rules relating to simultaneous interpretation, half a day constitutes only 3 hours including the coffee break, normally of 30 minutes. It is becoming difficult to cover all the issues mentioned above in about 2 hours. The tight schedule imposed by the timetable leaves hardly any time for substantive discussion, especially for an audience of about 150 delegates.
6. **The organization of the plenary session in June 2005**. The 2005 plenary session will be organised differently in order to accommodate the OECD Statistical Committee. The Conference will open with the first seminar, and the formal business is scheduled for the last, third day. However, some formal issues have to take place at the opening such as: opening addresses (normally about 20 minutes), the presentation of the issues that arise from the annual session of the ECE (10 minutes), and the announcement for the election of a new Bureau this year (5 minutes). All this will eat into the time allocated for the first seminar.
7. **The organization of the 2006 plenary session**. It is planned to discuss the 2010 Census

Recommendations at the 2006 plenary session. Ten Task Forces have been proposed and they are already working towards the Recommendations. These recommendations may require a few hours of discussion. Also in 2006, it is expected that the first results of the MNE project will be available for presentation and possible discussion at the plenary session. It is therefore proposed that only one seminar be organised in 2006, or that the second seminar be organized for half a day. Given the criticism expressed by many CES members concerning the conference facilities that were provided in 2004 in Paris, it is important that the venue of the Conference in 2006 be discussed as well.

Proposal: The Bureau is invited to discuss:

- the duration of the “formal business” session in future;
- the organization of the plenary session in 2005 – the proposal is attached;
- the organization of the plenary session in 2006, including the venue of the Conference

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CES 2005 Plenary session's provisional agenda and timetable

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Monday, 13 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
9:30-9:50	1	OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	ECE/CES/..
9:50-10:00	2	MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES – The February 2005 session of the ECE	CES/2005/1
10:00-10:05	3	Announcement on the election of the Bureau	
10:05-17:30		FIRST SEMINAR SESSION ON FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES OF STATISTICAL SYSTEMS	
9:50-10:00	4	Seminar on “IMPROVED DATA REPORTING” Introductory comments by the Chairman (United States) Session I: Using the Internet for business surveys Session organizer: Finland, Discussant: Ivan Fellegi (Canada)	...
10:00-10:15		Presentations: <i>Using the Web in collecting data for business statistics</i> (Finland)	
10:15-10:30		<i>Web-based Surveys at Statistics Austria: Issues, Decisions, and Solutions</i> (Austria)	
10:30-10:45		<i>The Security Model for Electronic Data Reporting</i> (Canada)	
10:45-11:05		General discussion	
11:05-11:25		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:25-11:40		Session II: Using the Internet for population censuses and surveys Session organizer: Canada, Discussant: Werner Haug (Switzerland)	
11:40-11:55		Presentations: Canada	
11:55-12:10		Australia <i>Using Both Internet and Field Collection Methods for the 2006 Population Census</i> (New Zealand)	
12:10-12:30		General discussion	
12:30-14:30	LUNCH		
14:30-14:45	2	Seminar on “IMPROVED DATA REPORTING” (cont.) Session III: Cognitive and usability testing and marketing in support of Internet reporting Session organizer: United Kingdom, Discussant: ???	
14:45-15:00		Presentations: <i>Usability and Accessibility Testing in Support of Internet Reporting</i> (United States) <i>Web versus Paper Questionnaires: A Design Comparison</i> (United Kingdom)	
15:00-15:15		<i>How Does Questionnaire Design Vary for Electronic vs. Paper Reporting? Is Length an Issue? Complexity?</i> (Canada)	
15:15-15:45		General discussion	
15:45-16:05		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:05-16:20		Session IV: Reducing respondent burden through improved data reporting Session organizer: Sweden, Discussant: Irena Krizman (Slovenia)	
16:20-16:35		Presentations: <i>Users' Needs versus Response Burden: How to Maintain the Balance?</i> (Lithuania)	
16:35-16:50		<i>Reducing respondent burden</i> (Australia) <i>Common Online Rawdata Entry Project: Electronic Data Reporting From German Enterprise Resource Planning Software</i> (Germany)	
16:50-17:20		General discussion Concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Seminar	

Time	Item	Topic	Document
17:20-17:30			

Tuesday, 14 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)			
9:30-17:30		SECOND SEMINAR SESSION ON NEW EMERGING ISSUES	
9:30-9:40 9:40-10:10 10:10-10:25 10:25-10:40 10:40-11:10 11:10-11:30 11:30-11:45 11:45-12:00 12:00-12:30	3	Seminar on "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" Introductory comments by the Chairman: Mr. Svante Öberg (Sweden) Keynote speech Session I: The role of official statistics Chair: Dennis Trewin (ABS), Discussant: Heinrich Brünger (UNECE) Presentation: (Sweden) Presentation: (Eurostat) General discussion <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session II: Frameworks and analytical tools Chair: Svante Öberg (Sweden), Discussant: (Netherlands) Presentation: (Estonia) Presentation: (Canada) General discussion	...
<i>12:30-14:30</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>		
14:30-14:45 14:45-15:00 15:00-15:30 15:30-15:50 15:50-16:05 16:05-16:20 16:20-17:20 17:20-17:30	3	Seminar on "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" (cont.) Session III: Case studies Chair: Vladimir Sokolin (Russia), Discussant: (Germany) Presentation: (Switzerland) Presentation: (Spain) General discussion <i>Coffee/tea break</i> Session IV: Future needs and recommendations Chair: Ivan Fellegi (Canada), Discussant: Eurostat Presentation: (UK) Presentation: (OECD) General discussion Concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Seminar	
Wednesday, 15 June (9:30-12:30)			
9:30-12:30		FORMAL BUSINESS	
9:30-9:40 9:40-10:20 10:20-10:35 10:35-10:50 10:50-11:10	5	INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION Chairman's introductory comments In-depth review of ... (topic selected by the Bureau) Comments on the Integrated Presentation: Issues and problems Selection of topics for the seminars at the 2006 Conference and the statistical areas for in-depth review by the Bureau in February 2006 <i>Coffee/tea break</i>	CES/2005/3
11:10-11:40		Confidentiality and microdata	
11:40-11:50	6	SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR SEMINAR TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION	
11:50-12:00	7	ELECTION OF THE BUREAU	
12:00-12:30	8	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	
			Draft report

