

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

First Meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau
Geneva, 15 June 2005

REPORT OF THE 15 JUNE 2005 BUREAU MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau was held in Geneva on 15 June 2005. The following members of the Bureau attended: Katherine Wallman (Chair), Milva Ekonomi, Dennis Trewin, Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Luigi Biggeri, Vladimir Sokolin, Irena Krizman and Svante Öberg. The following permanent observers also attended: Mikhail Korolev (CIS-STAT), Pieter Everaers (representing Günther Hanreich, Eurostat), Rob Edwards (IMF), Enrico Giovannini (OECD), Ivan Fellegi (OECD Committee on Statistics), Heinrich Brünger (UNECE), Stefan Schweinfest (representing Paul Cheung, UNSD) and Misha Belkindas (World Bank). The following persons attended at the invitation of the Bureau: Hallgrímur Snorrason (Statistics Iceland), Hermann Habermann (U.S. Bureau of the Census), Patrice Robineau (UNECE). The following persons assisted members of the Bureau: Béla Prigly (Statistics Canada), Andrey Kosarev (Bureau of Economic Analysis, Russia), Magnus Andersson (Statistics Sweden), Suzann Evinger (U.S. Office of Management and Budget), Joseph Costanzo (U.S. Bureau of the Census), James Whitworth (Eurostat), Hans-Werner Schmidt (Eurostat), Angela Me and Tiina Luige (UNECE secretariat). Lidia Bratanova acted as the secretary of the meeting.

II. SOCIAL STATISTICS

Document: CES/2005/40

2. The Bureau discussed the organization of the first meeting of UNECE directors of social statistics based on the paper prepared by the Organizing Committee. This document contained two proposals: one by the Chair and another one by Eurostat. The Bureau took note of the agreement reached by the Organizing Committee on a common proposal.

3. It was decided to have the first meeting of UNECE directors of social statistics back-to-back with the Eurostat meeting of directors of social statistics on 29-30 September 2005. The duration of the meeting will be one and a half days. The Bureau stressed the need to focus the work on the development of common survey questions/modules and recognized the forum as an opportunity to address issues related to definitions and measurement (for example, non-response bias, cognition) of emerging social issues. The target audience of the forum should be the directors of social statistics in NSOs and the meeting should produce concrete outcomes. The Bureau asked the Organizing Committee to consider possibilities to prolong the future meetings of the directors of social statistics (at least two days).

4. The Bureau agreed to focus the first CES meeting on social statistics on the measurement of new forms of households and family formations. Eurostat and the United States will finalise the agenda for the first meeting.

5. Eurostat and the United States will report back to the Bureau in October about the outcome of the meeting.

III. PROGRAMME PLANNING PROCESSES – Biennial programme plan 2006-2007

Documents: E/ECE/1423/Add.1 and Strategic Framework 2006-2007; Sub-programme 3: Statistics

6. The Bureau took note of the procedure of the UNECE programme planning and evaluation processes and the biennial programme plan for 2006-2007, presented by Patrice Robineau, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE.

IV. MIGRATION STATISTICS

7. The Bureau decided to set up a Friends of the Chair group to develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) for further work on migration statistics. Australia, Canada, Italy, Russia, United States, Eurostat, OECD, IMF and the World Bank volunteered to be members of the group. The invitation is open for other countries/organizations to join in. Canada agreed to Chair the group. United States offered to develop the first proposal for the TOR.

V. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETINGS

8. The next Bureau meetings will take place on 24-25 October 2005 in Washington, D.C. and on 9-10 February 2006 in Geneva.

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