

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For information

First meeting of the 2009/2010 Bureau
Washington, D.C., 15-16 October 2009

Item 12c of the Provisional
Agenda

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU AND THE CONFERENCE

Note by the secretariat

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU	2
CES Bureau meetings	2
Progress of work and strategies of international organizations.....	2
In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas by the Bureau	2
CES Seminars	2
II. DECISIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS	3
SA 1.2 Labour statistics	3
SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing	3
SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics	3
SA 1.9 Culture statistics.....	3
SA 2.3 Business statistics.....	3
SA 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries	4
SA 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics	4
SA 3.1 Environment statistics	4
SA 3.3.4 Globalization.....	4
SA 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing	4
SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection	5

INTRODUCTION

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference is updated for each Bureau meeting. It follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference where work is still not completed.
2. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to specific Statistical Activities (SAs). Actions undertaken before 2008 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2008 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.

I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU

CES Bureau meetings

June 2009:	The Conference decided to temporarily change the timing of the CES Bureau meetings as follows: (a) a two-day meeting in autumn (preferably October/November); (b) a one-day meeting back-to-back with the CES plenary session in June; and (c) a short meeting during the UN Statistical Commission session in February/March in New York, if necessary.
Action:	<i>In October 2011, the Bureau will evaluate the new frequency and timing of the CES Bureau meetings and decide whether to propose to the Conference to change the 'Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau' in this respect.</i>

Progress of work and strategies of international organizations

History:	At the June 2002 plenary session, it was agreed that, regularly, discussion should be devoted to the progress of work of international organizations and their strategies. The following international organizations have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau: IMF (2003), the World Bank (2004), Eurostat (2005), UNSD (2006), OECD (2007), CIS-STAT (2008) and ILO (2009).
Action:	<i>The Bureau will select in October 2009 the next international organization to present its activities. Possible candidates are IMF, FAO, UNDP.</i>

In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas by the Bureau

History:	The in-depth reviews have been an important part of the work of the Bureau allowing to coordinate the international statistical activities in the UNECE region. In the past, the in-depth reviews covered all statistical areas over a two-year period. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the in-depth discussion on strategic issues in five selected areas per year. In October 2008, the Bureau considered how to better involve the CES members in the in-depth reviews and decided to discuss the topics selected for in-depth review at the CES plenary session prior to the discussion at the Bureau meeting.
June 2009:	The new approach was tested with the topic of statistical dissemination, communications and publications.
Action:	<i>i) The topics of government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics; and statistical dissemination, communication and publications will be reviewed in-depth in October 2009;</i> <i>ii) The Bureau will evaluate the new approach of pre-discussing the topic at the CES plenary session, and decide on the organization of the next in-depth reviews in October 2009.</i>

CES Seminars

The impact of global crises on statistical systems

June 2009 CES:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems to be held during the CES 2010 plenary session. IMF and OECD are the organizers of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an outline of the seminar in October 2009.</i>

Spatial statistics/Role of a spatial dimension in official statistics

June 2009 CES:	The CES selected this topic for the seminar on emerging issues to be held during the 2009 CES plenary session. Eurostat and Mexico are the organizers of the seminar.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will review an outline of the seminar in October 2009.</i>

II. DECISIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS**SA 1.2 Labour statistics**

History:	The Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on Quality of Work in July 2007.
February 2009:	The Bureau discussed the draft framework to measure the quality of employment.
Action:	<i>The Framework is planned to be submitted to the Bureau in February 2010 and to the Conference in June 2010.</i>

SA 1.7 Human settlements and housing

October 2007:	The Bureau reviewed housing statistics in February 2009. Following the Bureau decision, a survey was carried out among the CES members to find priority areas where international work in housing statistics could be undertaken. The Conference was informed about the outcomes of the in-depth review and the survey at the 2009 June plenary session.
Action:	<i>The Bureau will analyse at its 2009 October meeting the results of the survey and the countries' comments made during the discussion at the CES 2009 plenary session, and will report back to the Conference in June 2010.</i>

SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics

June 2009:	The Conference endorsed the <i>Manual on Victim Surveys</i> . The Conference agreed that work be carried out on developing a crime classification.
Action:	<i>The terms of reference for a task force to work on a crime classification will be submitted to the Bureau for approval in October 2009.</i>

SA 1.9 Culture statistics

History:	There have been plans to organize a meeting on culture statistics for several years but the meeting has not taken place. The Bureau reviewed in depth culture statistics in February 2008 and discussed follow-up in October 2008.
Action:	<i>The international meeting on culture statistics was postponed. The Bureau will continue to follow up on developments in culture statistics.</i>

SA 2.3 Business statistics

June 2009:	A CES seminar on business statistics was organized in June 2009 by the Task Force on business statistics.
Action:	<i>The Task Force will present a proposal for follow-up work to the October 2009 meeting of the Bureau.</i>

SA 2.4.1 Agriculture, forestry, fisheries

October 2008	Agriculture statistics (including forestry and fisheries) was reviewed in-depth in October 2008. Follow-up was discussed in February 2009. The Conference was informed about the outcomes of the review at its June 2009 plenary session.
Action:	<i>i) Terms of reference for future work on agriculture statistics in the UNECE region, including setting up a “light” Task Force for this purpose, are submitted to the Bureau in October 2009. ii) Agriculture statistics is a possible topic for a CES seminar in 2011.</i>

SA 2.5 Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics

Action:	<i>Government finance, fiscal and public sector statistics will be reviewed in-depth in October 2009 based on a paper prepared by IMF.</i>
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SA 3.1 Environment statistics**– Climate change**

February 2009:	The Bureau discussed the possible involvement of the CES in work related to climate change.
Action:	<i>i) the secretariat was asked to prepare a note describing the activities of other UNECE Sectoral Committees related to climate change; ii) the Bureau asked for a short note to be prepared describing the current climate change inventory system (Eurostat and Finland will provide some information as a basis); iii) the secretariat will prepare a short (1-page) questionnaire to the CES members to find out how the NSOs are involved in climate change related work and in compiling the greenhouse gas inventories, and whether there are any common concerns that can be dealt with at international level; iv) the Bureau will discuss the future CES work on climate change at its October 2009 meeting; a note on progress of work by the secretariat is presented for information to the Bureau in October 2009.</i>

SA 3.3.4 Globalization

History:	The TOR of the Working Group on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts (WGIGNA) were approved by electronic consultation in April 2007. The report by the Working Group was planned to be submitted to the CES 2010 plenary session.
Action:	<i>The Working Group will ask for the extension of its mandate by one year aiming to submit the final report to the Conference in June 2011.</i>

SA 4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing

October 2008:	The Bureau discussed the UNECE contribution to UNData in the context of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2009.
June 2009:	The Conference discussed the statistical dissemination and communications to provide input to the in-depth review by the Bureau in October 2009.
Action:	<i>i) The Bureau will review in-depth the statistical dissemination and communication in October 2009; ii) UNSD offered to provide more detail on UNData at the October 2009 meeting of the Bureau.</i>

SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection

June 2009:	The Conference approved the <i>Principles and Guidelines on Confidentiality Aspects of Data Integration Undertaken for Statistical or Related Research Purposes</i> .
Action:	<i>i) The Conference agreed that the Guidelines will be tested within the next two years; ii) The Conference will review the Guidelines in 2011.</i>

S.A 5.1 Institutional frameworks and principles; role and organisation of official statistics

June 2009:	The CES seminar on balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data was held.
Action:	<i>The Conference recommended that a concrete output of the seminar (e.g. Proceedings) should be prepared.</i>

SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources

February 2009:	The Bureau discussed the challenges in managing IT in statistical offices.
Action:	<i>The terms of reference of a MSIS Sharing Advisory Board will be submitted to the Bureau October 2009 meeting for approval.</i>

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