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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-eighth plenary session
(Paris, 13-15 June 2000)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2000/2001 AND 2001/2002:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**OUTCOMES OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE JANUARY 2000,
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELEVANT DECISIONS BY THE CONFERENCE**

Note by the secretariat

1. This note provides information on the outcome of meetings convened in the Conference's work programme since the January meeting of the Bureau (i.e. meetings convened between 26 January 2000 and the plenary session), and particularly recommendations for future work by the Conference that were made at those meetings. It also contains updated information on the programme of work of the Conference that became available since the issuance of the Integrated Presentation (CES/2000/4 and Adda. 1-6) early in April, and on developments in fields of statistics that have occurred since the January 2000 meeting of the Bureau which could affect the programme of work of the Conference in 2000/2001 and 2001/2002. Consequently, the information presented in this addendum supplements the information presented in the Integrated Presentation for the following programme elements:

- 2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure
- 2.6 Geographical and regional data
- 3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts
- 4.1 Demographic statistics
- 4.4 Labour statistics

2.1 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

The participants at the Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS'2000) that was held from 29-31 May 2000 in Riga, Latvia, recommended that a further meeting be convened in 2001/2002. They recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians:

Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS'2002) 2001/2002 to consider: (i) Application of web technology to integrate statistics; (ii) Secure communications and data confidentiality; (iii) Object oriented technologies, component architecture; (iv) Ways of making statistical information systems more responsive to users.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- To include the Seminar on Integrated Statistical Information Systems and related matters (ISIS'2002) in the Conference's work programme for 2001/2002.

2.6 GEOGRAPHICAL AND REGIONAL DATA

The participants at the 2000 Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 10-12 April 2000) recommended that a further meeting be convened in 2001/2002. They recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the work programme of the Conference:

Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography 2001/2002, to consider: (i) New opportunities created by cooperation and partnership; (ii) New technological solutions, including those based on on-line data access; (iii) Spatial analysis; (iv) Standards and metadata.

The Work Session also recommended organising a half day training session on GIS implementation for interested countries back -to back with the Work Session.

The 2000 Work Session recommended that the Conference approve the methodological material on the Guidelines on Cartography for Statistical Purposes that Finland and the United Kingdom had prepared. The meeting also recommended that the material be made available on the ECE's Website as soon as possible.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- To include the Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and Geography in the Conference's work programme for 2001/2002.
- To agree that the secretariat organise a half-day training session on GIS implementation for interested countries back to back with the Work Session.
- To approve the methodological guidelines, and agree that the secretariat should install them on the UN/ECE Website as soon as possible; and to encourage NSOs of ECE and other interested countries to use the Guidelines and to inform the secretariat on their experience in using them.

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The joint ECE-OECD-Eurostat Meeting on National Accounts was held in Geneva from 26 to 28 April 2000. It recommended that a joint CISSTAT-ECE-OECD Workshop on National Accounts be organised in 2001 (possibly in a CIS country), and that the focus of the workshop should be on issues of particular interest to the CIS countries. The Workshop would, however, be open to all member countries of the three organisations.

The April 2000 meeting on national accounts also recommended that a further ECE-Eurostat-OECD joint meeting on National Accounts be organised in the spring of 2002 in Geneva to consider the following substantive topics: (i) Policy uses of national accounts; (ii) Quality and reliability of national accounts; (iii) Implications of the new handbooks on CPI and PPI on national accounts; (iv) Quarterly national accounts (consistency of time series, seasonal adjustments, early estimates); (v) Supply and use tables: practical application; (vi) Capital investment(including software); and (vii) Price and volume measures of services.

The April 2000 meeting also recommended that the ECE secretariat, in co-operation with other international organisations, undertake the following surveys as contributions to the recommended 2001/2002 joint meeting: (i) Methods used for producing early (advance) statistical estimates; (ii) Best practices in estimating service lives of fixed assets; and (iii) Update the volume on Inventory of National Practices in Estimating Hidden and Informal Economic Activities for National Accounts published by the ECE secretariat in 1993.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- To include the Joint CISSTAT-ECE-OECD Workshop on National Accounts in the Conference's work programme for 2001/2002;
- To include the Joint ECE-Eurostat-OECD Meeting on National Accounts Conference's work programme for 2001/2002; and
- To include the recommended surveys by ECE and other interested organizations on (i) Methods used for producing early (advance) statistical estimates, (ii) Best practices in estimating service lives of fixed assets, and (iii) Update the volume on Inventory of National Practices in Estimating Hidden and Informal Economic Activities for National Accounts, that was published by the ECE secretariat in 1993, in the Conference's work programme for 2001/2002.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (Migration statistics)

The ECE-Eurostat-ESCWA joint work session on migration statistics was held in Geneva from 8-10 May 2000. The participants considered that it would be useful for countries to exchange experiences on developments in this field at a future meeting. They recommended, therefore, that the Conference convene a meeting in this field in 2000/2001, jointly with Eurostat and ESCWA. Therefore they recommended that the following text be included in the work programme of the Conference:

Work session on migration statistics in 2000/2001, jointly with Eurostat and ESCWA, to consider: (i) Progress in implementation of the UN Recommendations on International Migration Statistics; (ii) Methods investigating inflows and outflows highlighting definitions, different data sources used, and checks made on coverage and reliability; (iii) Progress on the second phase of the MED-Migr project on integrating sources, developing border card systems and work/residence permit systems; (iv) Cooperation between statistical offices and other ministries in developing new types of migration

data; (v) Strategies for developing statistics on international migration of workers (report by the ILO).

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- To include the ECE-Eurostat-ESCWA work session on migration statistics in the Conference's work programme for 2000/2001.

4.4 LABOUR STATISTICS

The ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment was held in Geneva from 3-5 May 2000. The participants recommended that a similar type of joint ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment be convened in 2001/2002. They recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the work programme of the Conference:

Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment (2001/2002, jointly with Eurostat and ILO), to consider the following topics: (i) Conceptual framework for the measurement of the forms of employment; (ii) Measurement of working time and labour productivity; (iii) Measurement of income and wage differentials; (iv) Measurement of continuous training; (v) Comparison among different sources: registers, household surveys and enterprise surveys; (vi) Development of indicators.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- To include the ECE-Eurostat-ILO Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment in the Conference's work programme 2001/2002.
