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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-ninth plenary session
(Geneva, 11-13 June 2001)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2001/2002 AND 2002/2003:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**OUTCOMES OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN SINCE 31 JANUARY 2001,
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 2001 meeting of the Bureau (i.e. meetings convened between 31 January 2001 and the 2001 plenary session), and particularly recommendations that were made at those meetings for future work by the Conference. If applicable, it also contains updated information on the programme of work of the Conference that became available since the issuance of the Integrated Presentation (CES/2001/3 and Adda. 1-6) early in April, and on developments in fields of statistics that have occurred since the January 2001 meeting of the Bureau that could affect the programme of work of the Conference in 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. 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
- 3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts
- 3.10 Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Statistics
- 4.1 Demographic statistics
- 4.10 Gender Statistics
- 4.11c Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics

2.1 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

2. The joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on the management of statistical information technology was held in Geneva in February 2001. The report of the meeting is available in CES/AC.71/2001/2.

3. The meeting recommended that a further meeting be convened in 2002/2003. It was recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians:

Joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on the management of statistical information technology (2002/2003) to consider the following: (i) Measures for the improvement of quality on IT management level; (ii) The impact of technical measures and standards on data quality; and (iii) Efficient management of increasing technical complexity.

The meeting also recommended the development of a website containing best practices on applications of statistical information and communication technologies, and transfer of know-how in this area. The secretariat was requested to ascertain the possibilities of solving this task.

4. The joint UNECE/Eurostat work session on statistical data confidentiality was held in Skopje in March 2001. The report of the meeting is available in CES/2001/31.

5. The work session recommended that a further meeting be convened in 2002/2003. It was recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians:

Joint UNECE/Eurostat work session on statistical data confidentiality (2002/2003) to consider the following: (i) Assessment of statistical disclosure limitation methods and software (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on different approaches to measurement of disclosure risk and software tools for disclosure of microdata); (ii) Impact of confidentiality on new data release techniques (in conjunction with parallel sub-sessions on confidentiality for small area statistics and software tools for disclosure of tabular data); (iii) Guidelines for studies on respondent perception of confidentiality.

6. The work session considered the USA material on Business Perception of Confidentiality to be very useful methodological material and recommended to consider it as a basis for future work on guidelines for this topic.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- ?? To include the joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on management of statistical information technology in the Conference's work programme 2002/2003
- ?? To agree that the ECE secretariat should develop, together with interested countries, a website on best applications of statistical information and communication technologies
- ?? To include the joint UNECE/Eurostat work session on statistical data confidentiality in the Conference's work programme 2002/2003
- ?? To agree that the secretariat should prepare methodological material on Businesses' Perceptions of Confidentiality

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

6. The ECE-CIS/STAT-OECD joint meeting on national accounts was held in St. Petersburg in May 2001. The report of the meeting is available in CES/AC.68/2001/2.

7. The meeting recommended that a further joint meeting be convened in 2003. It was recommended, therefore, that the following text be included in the programme of work of the Conference of the European Statisticians.

Joint UNECE/OECD/CIS-STAT meeting on national accounts for CIS countries (2003) to consider the following: (i) Price statistics for national accounts; (ii) Estimation of gross fixed capital formation; (iii) Estimation of consumption of fixed capital; (iv) The non-observed economy.

8. The meeting endorsed the proposal that the ECE secretariat, in co-operation with the CIS-STAT and OECD, continue work on capital stock measurement in transition countries.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- ?? To include the Joint UNECE/OECD/CIS-STAT meeting on national accounts for CIS countries in the Conference's work programme 2002/2003
- ?? To endorse the proposal that the ECE secretariat, in co-operation with CIS-STAT and OECD, continue the work on capital stock measurement in transition economies.

3.10 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY STATISTICS

8. The ECE-OECD-FAO-Eurostat-ISI World conference on agricultural statistics will take place in Rome from 5-7 June 2001. The report of the meeting will be issued as CES/AC.61/2001/2.

9. As this information on the outcome of this meeting will only become available on 8 June, information on the meeting's recommendations for future work by the Conference will be presented in a separate Annex of CES/2001/3/Add.7.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- ?? (See the Annex of CES/2001/3/Add.7 that will be produced on 8 June, immediately after the world meeting, and immediately before the plenary session).

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (Migration statistics)

10. The ECE-Eurostat work session on migration statistics took place in Geneva in May 2001. The report of the meeting is available in CES/2001/32.

11. The participants recommended, that the Conference convene a further meeting in this field in two-years' time, jointly with Eurostat and, if possible, UN/ESCWA. They also recommended the following terms of reference for the meeting be included in the Integrated Presentation as part of the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians:

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (INCLUDING PROJECTIONS, MIGRATION, FERTILITY AND FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS)

Activities of the ECE:

Work session/seminar on migration statistics, jointly with Eurostat and, if possible with UN/ESCWA, in 2002/2003 to consider: (i) First results on international migration from the 2000 round of population censuses, comparison with other sources and any indications on coverage and reliability (proposed organiser: France); (ii) Results of the pilot exercises on border card systems and work on residence permit systems carried out in 2002 in specific MED-MIGR countries and the collection of international migration data from the MED-MIGR countries (proposed organised: MED-MIGR expert); (iii) Estimates of undocumented migration and of other major categories of migrants not included in standard immigration and emigration statistics (proposed organiser: Eurostat); (iv) Synergies between international migration statistics and statistics on other topics with particular relevance to policy needs, including the need for international flow statistics in providing services across borders (proposed organiser: UNSD in cooperation with the Interagency Task Force on Statistics on Trade in Services).

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

?? To include the work session on migration statistics in the Conference's work programme for 2002/2003.

4.10 GENDER STATISTICS

12. The ECE Statistical Division organised, under the umbrella of its UNDP-financed extra-budgetary project on social reporting, a meeting of the Task Force on the Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America. The meeting discussed and agreed on common indicators for the website covering the following major policy areas: population, families and households, work and the economy, education and communication public life and decision making, health, crime and violence against women. Indicators on poverty and gender stereotypes were also discussed but no recommendations were made; instead, it was suggested that a future meeting should discuss these areas. Having arrived at agreement on a first list of indicators for the website, the Secretariat will now be able to begin creating the website and collecting the missing data. The report of the project meeting is available on the following web site:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender>

4.11c REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS FOR SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

13. The ECE-Eurostat work session on migration statistics took place in Geneva in May 2001. The report of the meeting is available in CES/2001/32.

14. The participants at that meeting considered a proposal calling for involving more actively in future meetings not just representatives from National Statistical Institutes but also officials from ministries that are responsible for administrative registers and records, and particularly at future joint meetings where issues concerning the utilisation of administrative records and registers for statistical purposes are to be addressed. The participants at the joint meeting on migration statistics viewed this proposal to be a very sensible one that applied not just to migration statistics but to other fields of statistics as well. They recommended, therefore, that the proposal should be taken fully into account in planning the next ECE-Eurostat joint meeting on registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics, which is currently planned to take

place in April of 2002. In addition, they also recommended that in addressing that issue at that meeting, the ECE secretariat, Eurostat and Session Organizers at the meeting should make a concerted effort to actively involve officials from these other governmental ministries in addressing the agenda items that are dealt with at the meeting. To help achieve that, they also suggested that the terms of reference of the April 2002 meeting be slightly amended to read as follows (item (iv) of the terms of reference of the meeting is a new item):

4.11c REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS FOR SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Activities of the ECE:

Work session on registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics, (jointly with Eurostat, Luxembourg, 2001/2002), to consider: (i) Quality considerations in the use of administrative data and registers for statistical purposes; (ii) New developments in methodology for linking of registers and administrative records (including methods of editing); (iii) Use of business register in social statistics; (iv) Use of administrative registers and records for producing new types of statistics (e.g. on special categories of international migration statistics) (reports by NSIs, and where possible, based on the active involvement of officials from other government ministries); and (v) Progress reports by Eurostat on harmonisation and integration, and specific research programmes under the "Fifth Framework".

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- ?? To adopt the modified terms of reference for the 2001/2002 joint ECE-Eurostat work session/seminar on registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics.
