



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/2003/38/Add.1
3 June 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Fifty-first plenary session
(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

PROPOSAL FOR ENLARGEMENT OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

Note prepared by the ECE secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. In recent years many countries from outside the ECE region have chosen to attend the Conference of European Statisticians and other technical expert meetings that are organised within the Conference work programme. These are mainly non-European OECD countries but also countries coming from other regions. During the last ten years the following non-ECE member countries have participated in the work of the Conference: Republic of Korea (9 times), Japan (8), Australia (7), Mexico (7), Mongolia (4), New Zealand (3), China (1), India (1) and South Africa (1). Experts outside the ECE region have also attended various technical meetings in economic statistics and also in social statistics.
2. The Bureau of the Conference considers that countries outside the ECE region contribute significantly to the work of the Conference, and therefore it wishes to encourage the continuation and strengthening of this development. Moreover, the Head of the Statistical Office of any member country of the United Nations is entitled to full participation in the work of the Conference, and the rules allow for their consideration for election to the Bureau. This is reflected in the decisions of the 1991 Conference concerning its Structure and Relations and Annex II of the 1991 Report (ECE/CES/38), where "Membership" is defined as "the head of the statistical service of any country participating in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe" and is therefore not limited to member states of ECE.

3. At its meeting in February 2003, the Bureau discussed in detail the possibility for enlargement of the Bureau and for giving an opportunity to those countries which are outside the ECE region but which participate regularly in the work of the Conference to be represented. The current size of the Bureau, limited to 6 members, makes this difficult since the Bureau needs to be reasonably representative of the countries of the ECE region. In order to facilitate the election of some countries from outside the region to the Bureau, without distorting the geographical balance within the Bureau, it would be desirable to allow some flexibility in the size of the Bureau.

II. THE PROPOSAL

4. In February 2003, the Bureau agreed to submit a proposal for enlargement of the Bureau to the plenary session in June (see report CES/BUR.2003/32, para.87) and to ask the Conference to review the present rules governing the work of its Bureau and consider amending them. In order to allow some flexibility in the size of the Bureau, it is proposed that it be increased to up to 8 members, of whom 6 members would continue to be from the ECE member countries and the remaining one or two (if the size is increased) for possible candidates from countries in other regions. This would open up the possibility for a broader geographical coverage.

5. In the event that the Conference approves the enlargement of the size of the Bureau, the following change would need to be made to sub-item (v) in para.98 of the current rules governing the elections to the Bureau:

“The Bureau is composed of up to 8 members, of whom 6 members would be from the ECE member countries and the remaining one or two for possible candidates from countries in other regions. The Bureau may invite to the meetings of the Bureau anyone who may facilitate its work”.