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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Fifty-first plenary session

(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

**ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE  
FOR THE 2003/2004 AND 2004/2005 PERIOD**

Note prepared by the ECE secretariat

1. The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians expires at the closing of the 2003 plenary session, on 12 June 2003. At the 2003 plenary session, therefore, elections for a Chair and for five Vice-Chairs will be held for the two-year period June 2003 to June 2005.
2. The elections of the Bureau are governed by the rules adopted by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session when new work methods were adopted to reflect the role of the Bureau as a "Steering Body" of the Conference. They are reproduced in Annex I of this note.
3. The Bureau currently consists of the following persons, who were elected at the 1999, 2000 and 2001 plenary sessions:

Chair:	Svein Longva (Norway), elected in 1999
Vice-Chairs:	Hallgrimur Snorrason (Iceland), elected in 1999
	Len Cook (United Kingdom), elected in 2000 <sup>1/</sup>
	Tadeusz Toczynski (Poland), elected in 2000 <sup>1/</sup>
	Katherine Wallman (United States), elected in 2001
	Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation), elected in 2001

4. All heads of national statistical offices that participate in the work of the Conference are eligible for election to the Bureau. This includes the current five Vice-Chairs of the Bureau whose term of office expires in June of 2003 who are all eligible to be re-elected for an additional term. According to the rules governing the elections, "Bureau members can be elected to four successive Bureaus". Svein Longva has served four successive Bureaus and therefore is not eligible for elections to the 2003 Bureau. All members of the Conference who previously served as Chairs or Vice-Chairs are also eligible to be re-elected.

5. The period of time that the current Bureau members have served on the Bureau to date is indicated below:

Mr. S. Longva (Norway):	Chair, 1999-2001 and 2001/2003; Vice-Chair, 1995/97 and 1997/99
Mr. Hallgrimur Snorrason (Iceland):	Vice-Chair, 1999/2001 and 2001/2003
Mr. Len Cook (United Kingdom):	Vice-Chair, 2000/01 and 2001/2003
Mr. Tadeusz Toczynski (Poland):	Vice-Chair, 2000/01 and 2001/2003
Ms. Katherine Wallman (USA):	Vice-Chair, 2001/2003
Mr. Vladimir Sokolin: (Russian Federation)	Vice-Chair, 2001/2003

6. As explained in para. 98 (i) of the annexed excerpt from the report of the 1991 plenary session, any member of the Conference is eligible for membership in the Bureau of the Conference. "Membership" in the Conference is defined in the Conference's Report on Structure and Relations (see Annex II) as "the head of the statistical service of any country participating in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe".

7. It is thus possible for a head of the statistical service of a country outside the ECE region to be a member of the Conference, and to be elected to its Bureau.

8. At its meeting in February 2003, the Bureau discussed the possibility for enlargement of the Bureau and giving an opportunity to those countries that are outside the ECE region but participate

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<sup>1/</sup> The elections of the two Bureau members that took place at the 2000 plenary session were for the remaining portion of the 1999-2001 term, to replace persons who had been elected at the 1999 plenary session for a two-year term but who subsequently ceased to work in the national statistical office.

regularly in the work of the Conference to be represented. A proposal for possible enlargement of the size of the Bureau to be increased to up to 8 members, of whom 6 members would continue to be from countries in the ECE region and the remaining one or two (if the size is increased) for possible candidates from countries in other regions is presented in an addendum to this document, CES/2003/38/Add.1.

9. There are no formal nominations for Bureau membership. Para. 98 (iii) in Annex I provides for the elections to the Bureau to be organised by "the most senior previous Chairman of the Conference, present at the plenary session concerned". Mr. Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada, is the most senior previous Chairman of the Conference who is currently head of a national statistical office, and therefore the elections will be organized by him. Mr. Fellegi served as Chairman of the Conference for four years (1993-97), and previously as Vice-Chairman for two years (1991/93).

10. The Bureau of the Conference usually has a two-day meeting twice a year, in February and October. In addition, it has one or two short meetings on the margins of the plenary session in June. The documentation for the meetings is informal and is produced only in English. When Bureau members require interpretation during the meetings, the secretariat attempts to provide them with official interpretation at meetings that are held in Geneva. However, if Bureau meetings are held outside Geneva (in recent years, at the invitation of the Chairman, the Bureau's autumn meetings have been held in the Chairman's country), the secretariat cannot provide interpretation at those meetings.

## ANNEX I

### EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE 1991 PLENARY SESSION (ECE/CES/38)

#### X. FUTURE ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE

96. The subjects discussed under this agenda item were (a) the reorientation of the work of the Bureau in order to adapt existing work methods to the new role of the Bureau as a steering body of the Conference, (b) the formal consequences of the new role of the Bureau for the composition and election of the officers of the Bureau, and (c) the revision of the 1953 Report on Structure and Relations in order to adjust the existing report to the new conditions for international statistical cooperation in general and the role of the Conference in particular.

97. The following decisions were taken with regard to the reorientation of the work of the Bureau:

- (i) One meeting of the Bureau of a duration of one to two full days should continue to be held in the second half of February each year. The subjects of discussion, as well as the need for the availability of all secretariat experts for this meeting, suggest that the meeting should be held in Geneva.
- (ii) A second Bureau meeting could regularly be convened during the morning of the first day of the plenary session.
- (iii) Further meetings of the Bureau could be determined by the Bureau members or the Chairman of the Conference as the need arises.
- (iv) The documentation necessary for Bureau meetings would be determined by the Bureau members in each case. The reports of all meetings convened within the work programme of the Conference prior to the Bureau meeting in February each year would have to be evaluated in detail from the point of view of the success of the meetings.
- (v) Invitations for Bureau meetings are issued by the secretariat. As a rule, they should be mailed not less than six weeks in advance.
- (vi) For purposes of consultation with the Bureau, the secretariat may take initiatives on matters affecting the implementation of the work programme of the Conference, or in relation to other issues that are of interest to the Conference and the Bureau.

98. Regarding the procedural consequences of the new role of the Bureau on the election of its officials, the following was agreed:

- (i) Any member of the Conference is eligible for membership in the Bureau of the Conference. The members of the Bureau undertake to devote the time necessary to an adequate discharge of their duties.
- (ii) The Conference elects its Bureau for a period of two years, starting with the thirty-ninth plenary session.
- (iii) The election by the Conference is made on the basis of a proposal by the most senior previous Chairman of the Conference, present at the plenary session concerned. The proposal should be prepared in such a way that it maximizes the chances of being adopted by consensus.
- (iv) If no previous Chairman of the Conference is present at the plenary session, the Bureau proposes the designation of a member of the Conference at the beginning of the plenary session, who will assume the task of preparing the proposal for the composition of the Bureau.
- (v) The Bureau is composed of six members. The Bureau may invite to the meetings of the Bureau anyone who may facilitate its work.
- (vi) If a Bureau seat falls vacant, the Bureau may decide to co-opt a member until the time of the next plenary session, when a new Bureau member is elected.
- (vii) Bureau members can be elected to four successive Bureaus. Any previous Bureau member can be re-elected to the Bureau after an interruption of at least two years.
- (viii) The Chairman of the Conference is elected by the Conference from among the members of the Bureau. The term of office is two years.
- (ix) The election is made on the basis of a proposal by the member of the Conference who is responsible for the proposal of Bureau composition.
- (x) If the post of Chairman of the Conference falls vacant, the Bureau may decide to designate an Acting Chairman from among the Bureau members until the time of the next plenary session, when a new Chairman is elected by the Conference.
- (xi) A Chairman of the Conference may be re-elected once. Any previous Chairman may be re-elected Chairman after an interruption of at least two years.
- (xii) Standing invitations are extended to the Director-General of Eurostat and to the chief statistical representative of the OECD Secretariat to attend meetings of the Bureau as observers. The Director of the UN Statistical Office continues to participate in Bureau meetings as representative of the UN secretariat.

99. The Conference agreed on a revision of the report on structure and relations. The agreed text is included in Annex II of this report.

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**ANNEX II OF THE REPORT  
OF THE 1991 PLENARY SESSION (ECE/CES/38)**

Report on Structure and Relations

(as adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians  
at its thirty-ninth plenary session  
Geneva, 17-21 June 1991)

The Conference of European Statisticians meets as a continuing body under the joint auspices of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The Conference reviewed at its thirty-ninth plenary session the Report on Structure and Relations, which was included as Appendix C in the report of the Third Regional Meeting of European Statisticians (Geneva, 15-19 June 1953; document E/CN.3/CONF.3/1;E/ECE/167). The Conference decided to revise the Report on Structure and Relations in the light of the new requirements for statistical cooperation in the ECE region, which have emerged from contemporary transition, integration and other processes of cooperation in the region. The Conference agreed on the amended Report on Structure and Relations as it is set out below.

1. Objectives

- (i) to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialised Agencies and other appropriate bodies as necessary;
- (ii) to promote close coordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices.
- (iii) to respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the ECE region and between the ECE region and other regions.

2. Memberships

The head of the statistical service of any country participating in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe may be a member of the Conference.

3. Participation in the work of the Conference by statisticians from International Agencies

The directors of statistical activities in the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters and the Economic Commission for Europe shall be closely associated with all work of the Conference. The officers responsible for statistical activities in other international agencies shall also be invited to participate when their special fields of interest are involved.

#### 4. Activities

The Conference shall provide a forum for work on all statistical matters which are of interest to its members. In particular, it may:

- (i) Decide on the collection and dissemination of such internationally comparable statistics of ECE member countries as are required by policy makers, enterprises, researchers and the general public in the ECE region;
- (ii) promote the development of statistical methodological guidelines and standards (concepts, definitions, classifications) as required for purposes of international comparability of statistics in the region;
- (iii) assist in the improvement of the statistical infrastructure of countries both within and outside the ECE region;
- (iv) coordinate international statistical cooperation and the statistical work programme of the ECE, using the work programme of the Conference as the basic management tool for international statistical coordination;
- (v) make the results of its work available to national statistical offices, international organizations, enterprises or any other user;
- (vi) arrange for any study that may be required to further its objectives.

#### 5. Officers

The Conference shall elect a Bureau and a chairman according to rules laid down by the Conference.



6. Secretariat

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe places at the disposal of the Conference such staff and facilities as may be necessary to assist it in the accomplishment of its objectives and work programmes and to make appropriate arrangements with the United Nations Statistical Office for its participation in these functions.

7. Meetings of the Conference

Meetings of the Conference shall take place regularly once a year, preferably in June, at a time fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat. Additional meetings may be convened by the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat.

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