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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION,
2003/2004 AND 2004/2005: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of this document and its addenda

1. One of the main purposes of the plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians is to coordinate the statistically related work that various international and supranational organizations carry out in the ECE region, and to decide on its future work programme.
2. The CES plenary session has become the forum in which the work programmes of all international and supranational agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas (including the European Union) are considered and reviewed in the context of the CES programme. Although the Conference has no jurisdiction over the work programmes of the various agencies because they have their own decision-making bodies, the Conference has authority based on its comprehensive and very senior membership, and its longstanding history of co-ordinating international statistical work.

3. One of the most important documents that is considered at each plenary session of the Conference is the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work Programmes of the 25 or so international agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas that are presented in this document and its addenda. This single comprehensive document is intended to bring together all the information necessary to enable the plenary session to make well-informed decisions about future work in its own programme and to comment and give advice on statistical work planned to be undertaken by other institutions. It is important to note that the work is considered in the light of objectives defined by national statistical offices rather than by international secretariats. More details are given under the heading "Background information" below.

4. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared after the Conference of European Statisticians' 10-12 June 2003 plenary session. It reflects the various decisions that the Conference took at the plenary session.

Mandate of the Conference

5. The Integrated Presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives as confirmed by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session, as follows (see ECE/CES/38, Annex II, para. 2):

- to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other appropriate bodies, as necessary;
- to promote close co-ordination 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; and
- 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.

Background information

6. The Integrated Presentation and its addenda 1-6, each dealing with a different work area, provide an overview of the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years by all major international organizations that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation also provides summary information on the planned future statistically-related work programme of the UNECE, Eurostat, OECD and approximately two dozen other international organizations working in this region.

7. The material presented in the Integrated Presentation is intended to assist the Conference in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. It is also

used by countries to plan their statistical activities and to decide on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations.

8. The following issues related to this year's version of the Integrated Presentation should be noted:

- a) **The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of Programme Activities 1, 2 and 4 (see Table 1) since the 2002 plenary session.** (The Bureau conducts similar types of in-depth reviews of three programme activities each year, so as to ensure that the entire work programme is reviewed in depth every two years).
- b) **Review of some parts of the Integrated Presentation in greater depth:** In accordance with past practice, because of the large size of the Integrated Presentation, only selected parts of the presentation are examined in greater depth at any given plenary session. This year the Bureau had selected two programme elements to be reviewed in greater depth at the 2003 Plenary session, namely, PE 4.1, Families and households, and PE 4.8, Crime and criminal justice statistics.
- c) **Review of other parts of the Integrated Presentation:** Prior to the 2001 plenary session, after the Conference had reviewed the selected programme elements in greater depth, some time was reserved to permit the Conference to review the 40 or so remaining Programme Elements in a more general manner. At this year's plenary session, a brief period of time was available for this. Therefore, the secretariat had sent a letter to national statistical offices in early May, together with a complete set of the Integrated Presentation, to ask them to review the material in the Integrated Presentation for all the programme elements, and to notify the secretariat in writing prior to the plenary session if they had any issues of concern to raise about them. The secretariat brought these issues to the attention of the Bureau when the Bureau met immediately prior to the plenary session.
- d) **Conversion of the Integrated Presentation into a database:** A brief time was also set aside on the margins of the plenary session (e.g. during a lunch break) to illustrate the Integrated Presentation data base, which is currently in a test phase and is available on the website of the ECE Statistical Division.
- e) **Preparation of the Excerpt and translation of the Integrated Presentation:** The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed at its February 2003 meeting that the full version of the Integrated Presentation will be produced and disseminated in future in English only. The reason is that in previous years the translation of the Integrated Presentation into French and Russian was often delayed and not available in time for the CES plenary session in the three ECE official languages. However, the Bureau decided that an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (totalling about 90 pages) be prepared. This excerpt was translated into French and Russian (CES/2003/4). It offers in an integrated unique document general information on the various statistical areas, and includes the

following sections: goals, issues and problems, strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings and activities of the CES.

- f) **New addendum on the statistical programme of the other UN Regional Commissions:** This year's version of the Integrated Presentation includes, for the first time and on an experimental basis, a new addendum (CES/2003/39/Add.7) presenting the statistical activities planned by the other UN Regional Commissions.

Structure of the Integrated Presentation

9. The Integrated Presentation is divided into six major work areas ("programme activities") that comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and they are in turn sub-divided into a total of 46 programme elements (see Table 1).

10. Programme activity 1 covers issues concerned with the general management of the programme of work of the Conference, issues of statistical policy that are of direct concern to heads of NSOs, and issues such as international coordination, technical assistance in statistics and relations with countries outside the ECE region (see CES/2003/39/Add.1).

11. Programme activity 2 deals with substantive cross-cutting issues (including the managerial aspects of such issues) of concern to NSOs, which do not relate to a specific subject-matter field of statistics (e.g. issues of information technology with relation to statistical work (see CES/2003/39/Add.2).

12. The core of the programme lies in the substantive programme activities 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social and demographic statistics, and environment statistics respectively. Each of these programme activities addresses conceptual issues, standards, and questions of design, collection, production, dissemination and analysis of statistical data arising in their domains (see CES/2003/39/Add.3-5).

13. Programme activity 6 covers the coordination of international data collection, the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat (see CES/2003/39/Add.6).

14. The division of these six programme activities into 46 programme elements aims to be comprehensive while keeping the number of programme elements to a minimum, and consistent with the aims of the Conference. Each programme element is characterised by a statement of broad objectives and scope in a homogeneous area of statistical activity. The complete list of programme elements in the Conference's programme of work is provided in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in the Integrated Presentation in which information for the programme element can be found. The list of abbreviations used in the work programmes is given in Annex I.

15. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in ECE, EU and OECD countries. The following standard headings are used within each programme element.

GOALS: Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

ISSUES AND PROBLEMS: Issues and problems of concern to national and international statistical offices that countries consider should receive priority attention by international statistical offices.

STRATEGIC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES: Specific outputs expected by countries in the medium-term future (3 years or longer).

EXPECTED OUTCOME IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years as a result of international statistical work in each field of statistics.

ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING:
List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considered warranted being brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE: List of decisions on its programme of work that the Conference took in each work area at the 2003 plenary session.

MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Sponsoring agency, title, date.

RAPPORTEUR: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Description of the major activities of agencies in each field of statistics in the period from June 2003 to June 2005. Information is also given in this section on **ECE resource implications** for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

16. Addendum 7 presents the statistical activities planned by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Functions of Rapporteurs

17. The Conference has agreed that in programme elements where several international organizations are actively working, it would be useful to ask one agency to serve as the "rapporteur" for work in that field. Rapporteurs have been appointed for most of the programme elements. Rapporteurs report to the Bureau, who in turn takes the reports into account in proposing changes to the Integrated Presentation. These reports are carefully reviewed by the Bureau in conducting the in-depth reviews of the Integrated Presentation.

18. During 2002/2003, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of programme activities 1, 2 and 4, and in 2003/2004 it will conduct an in-depth review of programme activities 3, 5 and 6. It conducts these in-depth reviews on the basis of the following material: (i) the amended version of the Integrated Presentation that was prepared immediately after the Conference's plenary session, and which reflects the outcome of the discussion that took place at the preceding plenary session (Addenda 3, 5 and 6 of CES/2003/39); and (ii) short reports that the Rapporteurs prepare for the Bureau in the fields of statistics covered by these work areas.

19. The specific functions which the Bureau asks the Rapporteurs to perform are summarised below:

- to keep abreast of the activities that are being undertaken by the relevant agencies;
- to report to the Bureau, in short reports that are intended to be essentially issue- and strategic-oriented in character, on the extent to which progress is being made collectively by the agencies in meeting what is presented in the Integrated Presentation as the Member States' Goals and Objectives, and of their Strategic medium-term goals and Expected outcomes for international statistical work in a given field of statistics;
- to identify in their reports any important issues in their field of statistics which they consider warrant being brought to the attention of the Bureau and/or the Conference (e.g. key new issues, gaps, problems or developments);
- to advise the Bureau, through their candid reports, on how the goals, objectives and outputs might best be achieved; and
- in cases where a Programme Element has been selected by the Bureau as one for in-depth review at the forthcoming plenary session, to prepare a paper for the plenary session relating to that programme element, which (together with a national paper) should serve as the basis of the Conference's in-depth review of that programme element.

Future development of the Integrated Presentation

20. The improving of the Integrated Presentation is an on-going process. It will continue with the in-depth reviews of individual programme activities that the Bureau will conduct each year. The content and structure of future editions of the Integrated Presentation may also differ in the future, depending on the outcome of work in progress by the ECE secretariat, Eurostat and the OECD.

21. In February 2003 the Bureau agreed that the structure of the Integrated Presentation should

be reviewed in order to reduce duplication as far as possible and to eliminate those programme elements that are no longer significant and contain very limited information. The ECE Secretariat was asked to formulate a detailed proposal to be presented at the October 2003 meeting of the Bureau.

22. The work on converting the IP into a database is progressing according to plan. A prototype database has been developed and loaded with the 2003 edition of the IP. Web-based browsing interface has also been completed, and it is currently available through the ECE public website (www.unece.org/stats). The ECE Secretariat is currently testing the database and its Web-based browsing interface. Feedback and comments from external users are welcome (they may be sent to: technology.stat@unece.org).

Table 1. List of programme elements (PE) in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that PE can be found)

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/2003/3/Add.1)	1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work 1.2 Management and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices 1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2003/3/Add.2)	2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Statistical classifications 2.5 Statistical research and development 2.6 Geographical and regional data 2.7 Human resource development 2.8 Sustainable development
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (CES/2003/3/Add.3)	3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport statistics 3.5 Distributive trade 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics

Programme Activity	Programme Element
	<p>3.13 Science and technology statistics</p> <p>3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics</p> <p>3.99 Other work in the field of economic statistics</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 4:</u> Social and demographic statistics (CES/2003/3/Add.4)</p>	<p>4.1 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households)</p> <p>4.2a Population and housing censuses</p> <p>4.2b Statistics on population groups of special interest</p> <p>4.3 Human settlements and housing statistics</p> <p>4.4 Labour statistics</p> <p>4.5 Education and training statistics</p> <p>4.6 Culture statistics</p> <p>4.7a Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality</p> <p>4.7b Social security statistics</p> <p>4.8 Crime and criminal justice statistics</p> <p>4.9 Health statistics</p> <p>4.10 Gender statistics</p> <p>4.11a Social indicators and frameworks</p> <p>4.11b Multi-purpose social surveys</p> <p>4.11c Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 5:</u> Environment statistics (CES/2003/3/Add.5)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications and environmental databases</p> <p>5.2 Environmental accounting</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 6:</u> Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2003/3/Add.6)</p>	<p>6.1 Dissemination of data and coordination of international data collection</p> <p>6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

**Annex I. List of more frequently used abbreviations employed
in the work programmes of Eurostat and the OECD**

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (Eurostat)
PAC	[Politique agricole commune]
CCEET	Centre for Co-operation with the European Economies in Transition [Centre pour la Coopération avec les Economies en Transition]
CDIS	Management Committee on Statistical Information (Eurostat) [Comité Directeur de l'Information Statistique]
CD-ROM	Compact disks with read-only memory
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
PECO	[Pays d'Europe centrale et orientale]
CESD	European Training Centre for Economists-Statisticians from Developing Countries (Eurostat) [Centre de formation des Economistes-Statisticiens des pays en voie de développement]
CIT	Countries in transition
CMFB	Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (Eurostat) [Comité des statistiques Monétaires, Financières et de Balance des paiements]
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government (Eurostat)
CFAB	[Classification des fonctions des administrations publiques]
CPA	Classification of Products according to Activity (Eurostat) [Classification des Produits liés aux Activités]
DGINS	Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [Conférence des Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique]
DOSES	Specific programme for the Research and Development of Statistical Expert Systems (Eurostat) [Programme spécifique de recherche-développement des systèmes experts en statistique]
DSIS	Distributed Statistics Information System (Eurostat)

[Système d'Information Statistique Réparti]

EAA Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat)

CEA [Comptes économiques de l'agriculture]

ECCI European Employment Cost Index (Eurostat)

ECHP European Coordinated Household Panels (Eurostat)

ECMT The European Conference of Ministers of Transport

CEMT [Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports]

EEA European Economic Area (Eurostat)

EEE [Espace économique européen]

EEA European Environment Agency (Eurostat)

AEE [Agence européenne de l'environnement]

EECI European Employment Costs Index (Eurostat)

[Indice européen du coût de la main-d'oeuvre]

EHLASS European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (Eurostat)

[Système européen de contrôle des accidents au foyer et lors des activités de loisir]

EMI European Monetary Institute (Eurostat)

IME [Institut monétaire européen]

EMU Economic and Monetary Union (Eurostat)

UEM [Union économique et monétaire]

ESA European System of integrated national Accounts (Eurostat)

SEC [Système européen de comptes nationaux intégrés]

ESSPROS European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (Eurostat)

SESPROS [Système européen de statistiques intégrées de la Protection Sociale]

FISIMs Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (in the European System of Accounts, ESA 95)

GISCO Geographic Information System for the Commission

NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (Eurostat) [Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes]
NIS	New Independent States (former Republics of the USSR) Nouveaux Etats Indépendants
NSI	National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat)
INS	[Instituts nationaux de statistique]
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (Eurostat) [Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques]
OWN/d	OECD World data Network
PHARE	Action plan for coordinated aid for restructuring economies in Poland and Hungary (Eurostat) [Pologne-Hongrie Assistance à la Restructuration des Economies]
PIT	Partners in Transition (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics)
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SCCTAS	Steering Committee to Coordinate Technical Assistance in Statistics to countries of the former Soviet Union
SERIEE	Collection of economic information on the environment (Eurostat) [Collecte d'informations économiques sur l'environnement]
SERT	Business statistics and telematics networks (Eurostat) [Statistiques des Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques]
SIRENE	System of Distributed Information on Energy (Eurostat)
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat)
PME	[Petites et moyennes entreprises]
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations]
SPC	Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat)
CPS	[Comité du Programme Statistique]

SPEL	Sectoral production and income model for Community Agriculture (Eurostat) [Modèle de la production et des revenus du secteur agricole communautaire]
TACIS	Technical Assistance CIS (Eurostat)
TES	Training of European Statisticians (Eurostat) [Formation des statisticiens européens]
TRAINS	Transport Information System (Eurostat) [Gestion statistique des transports terrestres]
UOE	UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (joint questionnaire on education statistics)