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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Election of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 period

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In accordance with the Rules governing the work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau (see ECE/CES/2007/8), the Conference elects its Bureau for a period of two years. The current term of all members of the Bureau expires at the closing of the 2017 plenary session, on 21 June 2017. Elections for a Chair and for the Vice-Chairs will therefore be held at the 2017 plenary session for the two-year period from June 2017 to June 2019.

The present document explains the procedure for the elections of the new Bureau. The elections will be carried out on 21 June 2017 under item 11 of the agenda.

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1. The current term of all members of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) expires at the closing of the 2017 plenary session, on 21 June 2017. At the 2017 plenary session, elections for a Chair and for the Vice-Chairs will therefore be held for the two-year period from June 2017 to June 2019.
2. In addition to the elected members of the Bureau, representatives of some international organizations active in statistics participate as permanent observers on the Bureau as stated in the Rules paragraph 14 (a): “Standing invitations are extended to the Director-General of Eurostat, the Chief Statistician of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Chairperson of the OECD Committee on Statistics, the Chairperson of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Statistics Department and the Director of the Development Data Group of the World Bank. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Division is invited to participate in Bureau meetings as a representative of the United Nations secretariat.”
3. The elections of the Bureau are governed by the rules adopted by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session and reconfirmed with minor amendments in 2007. These rules are provided in the document ECE/CES/2007/8.
4. As explained in paragraph 13 (a) of the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and its Bureau*, “any member of the Conference is eligible for membership in the Bureau of the Conference”. A member in the Conference is defined in the Rules, paragraph 5, as “the Head of the statistical service of any member country of the United Nations that participates regularly in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe”. It is thus possible for the Head of the statistical service of a country outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region to be a member of the Conference, and to be elected to its Bureau.
5. According to the Rules, paragraph 13 (b): “The Bureau is composed of up to 8 members, of whom 6 members should be from the UNECE member countries and the remaining one or two places be reserved for possible candidates from countries in other regions.” This is to ensure synergies of work and exchange of knowledge and experience.
6. Further, according to para 13 (c): “If a Bureau member leaves the Bureau, a new member may be co-opted until the time of the next plenary session, when a new Bureau member is elected.”
7. The previous Bureau elections were held in June 2015. The Conference elected six Heads of national statistical offices from the UNECE region (Armenia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Turkey and United Kingdom) and two from outside the region (Mexico, representing ECLAC region, and New Zealand, representing ESCAP region). Since June 2015, three members of the Bureau left their post as Chief Statistician, namely Canada, Mexico and Turkey. The new Chief Statisticians of Canada and Mexico were co-opted in the Bureau. The new Head of the Turkish Statistical Institute has not yet been appointed, leaving one seat on the Bureau vacant.
8. The Bureau currently consists of the following persons, who were either elected at the 2015 plenary session, or co-opted by the Bureau later to replace the Bureau members who left the post of the Head of office and could no longer serve on the Bureau:
 - Chairman: Ms. M. Bruun (Finland) (Acting Chair since October 2016, replacing Mr. W. Smith who resigned from the post of Chief Statistician of Canada), second term as the Bureau member;
 - Vice-Chairs: Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), first term;
Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria), second term;

Mr. A. Arora (Canada), co-opted in October 2016 to replace Mr. W. Smith;

Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico), co-opted in February 2016 to replace Mr. Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape;

Ms. L. MacPherson (New Zealand), first term;

Mr. J. Pullinger (the United Kingdom), first term.

9. According to the Rules paragraph 15 (d), “Bureau members can be elected to four successive Bureaus”. Therefore, all Vice-Chairs of the current Bureau whose term of office expires in June 2017 are eligible to be re-elected.

10. There are no formal nominations for Bureau membership. Paragraph 15 (a) of the Rules states: “The election of the Bureau by the Conference is carried out on the basis of a proposal by the most senior previous Chairman of the Conference present at the plenary session concerned.” There is no previous Chairperson of the Bureau among the members of the Conference. Ms. A. Zigure, Chief Statistician of Latvia, is the most senior previous Vice-Chairperson of the Conference and, therefore, she will make the proposal for the new membership of the Bureau. The para 15 (a) of the Rules further stipulates that “The proposal should be prepared in such a way that it maximizes the chances of being adopted by consensus.” Ms. Zigure will consult the proposal with all the CES members.

11. Elections for the Chair and Vice-Chairs for a period of two years will be held on Wednesday, 21 June 2017 under item 11 of the CES plenary session agenda.
