



**Economic and Social  
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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Fifty-second plenary session  
(Paris, 8-10 June 2004)

**Annotated provisional agenda of the 2004 plenary session**

The 52nd Plenary Session will be held at the OECD Headquarters, Tour Europe, 33 Place des Corolles, La Défense 2, 92409 Paris, from Tuesday, 8 June until Thursday, 10 June 2004. The meeting will commence at 14:30 on Tuesday, 8 June. The meetings on Wednesday, 9 June and Thursday, 10 June will take place from 9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30.

Delegates should arrive at the Tour Europe no later than 14:00 on Tuesday, 8 June to allow time for security clearance and registration. More general information is given in document CES/2004/INF.1.

Documents for the meeting, maps of Paris, lists of hotels and restaurants, and information for visitors to the OECD are available on the UNECE website for the meeting at:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2004.06.ces.htm>

## Introduction

1. The 50<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Statisticians decided to change the way it works in order to better respond to the rapidly changing world and to ensure that its work continues to be of priority interest to different groups of countries in the ECE region. It also reviewed the format and structure of its future plenary sessions and decided that they would include a formal session and two seminar sessions. The formal session would deal with the review of general issues such as the international statistical work in the region, while the two seminar sessions would focus on foundational issues of statistical systems and on new emerging issues.
2. Introduced in 2003, the 2004 plenary session of the Conference will continue to follow this new format in organising the sessions. The two seminar sessions will deal with National Statistical Systems and Measuring Prices and Volume of the Service Sector. These topics were selected by members of the Conference in June 2003.
3. An annotated provisional agenda, a tentative timetable for the 2004 plenary session and the documents intended for discussion are presented in the table on pages 2-4. Annex I lists additional documents that have been produced for information for the CES. All the documents for the meeting will be distributed in the usual way, but they will also be posted on the ECE Web site as they become available.

**Provisional agenda and tentative timetable**

Time	Item	Topic	Document
<b>Tuesday, 8 June (14:30-17:30)</b>			
<b>14:30-14:50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</b>	ECE/CES/65
<b>14:50-17:30</b>		<b>FORMAL BUSINESS</b>	
14:50-15:00 15:00-15:15	<b>2</b>	<b>MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES</b>  -The February 2004 annual session of the ECE -The March 2004 annual session of the UN Statistical Commission	CES/2004/1 CES/2004/2
15:15-15:20 15:20-16:05  16:05-16:20  16:20-17:00 17:00-17:10 17:10-17:30	<b>3</b>	<b>INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION</b>  Chairman's introductory comments In-depth review: PE 5: Environment Statistics - paper by Statistics Norway  <i>Coffee/tea break</i>  Progress report on the Confidentiality and Microdata project Progress report on the MNE project Comments on the Integrated Presentation - comments by countries - ECE Statistical Programme - guidelines for establishing teams of specialists within CES - technical cooperation - follow-up to decisions	CES/2004/7  Working papers  CES/2004/3-8 and Working papers

Time	Item	Topic	Document
<b>Wednesday, 9 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)</b>			
<b>09:30-17:30</b>		<b>FIRST SEMINAR SESSION ON FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES OF STATISTICAL SYSTEMS</b>	
09:30-12:30	<b>4</b>	<b>Seminar on “NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS”</b>	
09:30-09:35		Introductory comments by the Chairman: Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)	
09:35-10:55		<b>Session I: Coordination within National Statistical Systems (excluding regional/federal coordination)</b> (organised by France) Presentations: <i>The system for official statistics in Sweden</i> (Sweden) <i>Official statistics in France: a system with a high degree of devolution but strongly coordinated</i> (France) Discussant: Tadeusz Toczynski (Poland) General discussion	CES/2004/9 CES/2004/10
10:55-11:10		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:10-12:30		<b>Session II: Independence and integrity and credibility of official statistics (including all producers)</b> (organised by Czech Republic) Presentations: <i>Maintaining the credibility of official statistics</i> (Canada) <i>Independence and integrity and credibility of official statistics</i> (Italy) <i>Factors and principle measures influencing credibility and independence of official statistics</i> (Czech Republic) Discussant: Len Cook (United Kingdom) General discussion	CES/2004/11 CES/2004/12 CES/2004/13
12:30-14:30	<i>LUNCH</i>		
14:30-17:30	<b>4</b>	<b>Seminar on “NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS” (cont.)</b>	
14:30-15:45		<b>Session III: Issues generating demand for statistics</b> (organised by Statistics Netherlands) Presentations: <i>Pro-activity: a prerequisite?</i> (Netherlands) <i>How to anticipate users' needs when defining priorities within a statistical programme: experience of a candidate country</i> (Romania) Discussant: Jean-Michel Charpin (France) General discussion	CES/2004/14 CES/2004/15
15:45-16:00		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
16:00-17:15		<b>Session IV: Official statistics as a brand</b> (organised by the Russian Federation) Presentations: <i>Paper by Germany</i> <i>How to understand the quality of statistics in line with the public</i> (Poland) Discussant: Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation) General discussion	CES/2004/16 CES/2004/17
17:15-17:30		<b>6</b>	<b>SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR SEMINAR TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION</b>

Time	Item	Topic	Document
<b>Thursday, 10 June (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:30)</b>			
<b>9:30-16:50</b>		<b>SECOND SEMINAR SESSION ON NEW EMERGING ISSUES</b>	
9:30-12:30	<b>5</b>	<b>Seminar on “MEASURING PRICES AND VOLUME OF THE SERVICE SECTOR”</b>	
09:30-09:35		Introductory comments by the Chairman: Len Cook (United Kingdom)	
09:35-10:55		<b>Session I: Current international practice for measuring price and volume in the service sector I</b> Presentations: <i>Development of an OECD index of services production manual</i> (OECD) <i>Innovative practices of NSIs in the measurement of price and volume in the service sector</i> (ABS - Australia) <i>International services statistics coordination and strategy</i> (OECD) Discussant: Brian Newson (Eurostat) General discussion	CES/2004/19 CES/2004/20 CES/2004/21
10:55-11:10		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
11:10-12:30		<b>Session II: Current international practice for measuring price and volume in the service sector II</b> Presentations: <i>The Atkinson review of UK government output measurement – a progress report</i> (United Kingdom) <i>Constructing a volume index for hospital services in the Netherlands</i> (Netherlands) <i>Measuring volume directly without prices (finance, transport, sport)</i> (author to be confirmed) Discussant: Peter Van de Ven (Netherlands) General discussion	CES/2004/22 CES/2004/23 CES/2004/24
12:30-14:30		<i>LUNCH</i>	
14:30-16:50	<b>5</b>	<b>Seminar on “MEASURING PRICES AND VOLUME OF THE SERVICE SECTOR” (cont.)</b>	
14:30-15:40		<b>Session III: Output measures of services volume</b> Presentations: <i>Issues in measuring services prices</i> (US Bureau for Labor Statistics) <i>The Dutch strategy for realizing PPIs and volume measures for the service sector</i> (Netherlands) <i>Progress in the development of producer price indices (PPI) for service industries in Europe</i> (Sweden) Discussant: Ole Berner (Denmark) General discussion	CES/2004/25 CES/2004/26 CES/2004/27
15:40-15:55		<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	
15:55-17:05		<b>Session IV: The use of service sector statistics by external users</b> Presentations: <i>View of central banks</i> (European Central Bank) <i>Views of analysts</i> (author to be confirmed) <i>Service sector statistics and monetary policy</i> (Bank of England) Discussant: Werner Bier (European Central Bank) General discussion	CES/2004/28 CES/2004/29 CES/2004/30

Time	Item	Topic	Document
17:05-17:30	7	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	Draft report

**Explanatory notes to the agenda**

**Item 1: Adoption of the agenda, and consideration of the procedures to be followed at the plenary session**

4. The Bureau of the Conference proposed this provisional agenda and timetable at its February 2004 meeting. The provisional agenda and timetable are presented in more detail in this document for the approval of the Conference.

**Item 2: Implications of meetings of the Conference's parent bodies**

a) The February 2004 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

5. Information on the discussions held at the February 2004 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and on resolutions and decisions taken that have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2004/1**.

b) The March 2004 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission

6. Information on the conclusions reached and on the decisions taken at the March 2004 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission that may have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2004/2**.

**Item 3: Integrated presentation and co-ordination of international statistical work in the ECE region**

7. Under this agenda item the Conference will make an in-depth review of one statistical field of the Integrated Presentation - Programme element 5.1: Environment statistics - on the basis of a paper prepared by Statistics Norway (**CES/2004/7**).

8. This agenda item is also concerned with issues affecting the coordination of international statistical work relating to ECE, EU and OECD countries and with decisions and recommendations that the Conference is expected to take on the Integrated Presentation which also incorporates the UNECE Statistical Programme (**CES/2004/6**). In addition, as part of its responsibilities for coordinating international statistical work in the ECE region, the Conference is also expected, where it deems it appropriate, to offer guidance and advice to other international and supranational organizations and to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies on the statistically-related work that they plan to undertake in their work programmes.

9. Since June 2003, the Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work has been developed into a database and is available on the ECE website. As decided by the Bureau in February 2003, only an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (**CES/2004/4**) will be produced and translated into French and Russian, presenting for each Programme Element the following sections of the Integrated Presentation: goal; issues and problems; strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings, activities of ECE.

10. Recent developments concerning the Integrated Presentation and plans for future development as agreed by the CES Bureau in February 2004 will be presented in a secretariat paper (**CES/2004/3**). The ECE secretariat will consult in advance the members of the Conference for comments on the Integrated Presentation and the results of these consultations will be presented in document (**CES/2004/5**). Following the CES Bureau recommendations, the ECE secretariat will present for endorsement by the Conference guidelines for establishing the various teams or groups of experts that work within the Conference of European Statisticians (**CES/2004/8**).

#### **Item 4: Seminar on National Statistical Systems: lead organiser Statistics Finland**

11. The seminar will be chaired by Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Statistics Finland. Other members of the organising committee are INSEE (France), CSO (Czech Republic), Statistics Netherlands, and the Federal Service of State Statistics (Russian Federation).

##### Session I: Coordination within National Statistical Systems (excluding regional/federal coordination)

12. This session will cover the following issues: What do we mean by producers of official statistics and by coordination? Who is to be coordinated? What are the targets of the coordination? What is the scope of the coordination? What are the tools of coordination? What is, for example, the role of the Statistical Council in coordination?

##### Session II: Independence, integrity and credibility of official statistics (including all producers)

13. This session will cover the following issues: Principal measures to maintain and increase the credibility? What is, for example, the role of the Head of the NSI (or NSS)? What kind of impacts do the structures such as information society or increased use of administrative registers have on the application of the principles of official statistics?

##### Session III: Issues generating demand for statistics

14. This session will cover the following issues: How to react proactively, the role of strategic environmental analysis (strategic intelligence) in defining priorities? Impact of political agenda on statistics priorities?

##### Session IV: Official statistics as a brand

15. This session will cover the following issues: How to combine the coherence and user orientation in statistics? How is quality of statistics managed and understood for a wider audience? Issues related to dissemination and PR of statistic

#### **Item 5: Seminar on Price and Volume measurement in the Services Sector: lead organiser ONS, UK**

16. The seminar will be chaired by Len Cook, Office for National Statistics (UK). Other members of the organising committee are Eurostat, the Canadian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Denmark, and the European Central Bank

##### Session I: Overview of international practice for measuring price and volume in the service sector

17. This session will cover the following issues: What progress has been made internationally in this area? How do countries compare in their approach to service sector price and volume

measurement? What innovative practices are being used in this area?

Session II: Non-market output measures of services volume

18. This session will cover the following issues: How are different countries tackling the difficult area of measuring government output? In what other areas of services are countries using direct volume measures? What measures of volume do not rely on price deflators? Why are these different measures necessary in services?

Session III: Market output measures of services volume

19. This session will cover the following issues: What are the issues faced in measuring services prices? What are the different approaches being undertaken? What strategies are countries employing for reviewing service sector statistics?

Session IV: The uses of service sector statistics by external users

20. This session will cover the following issues: What are the priorities of users in the development of service sector statistics? How do these differ across the different types of user?

**Item 6: Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the next plenary session**

21. A list of possible topics for seminars to take place during the 2005 plenary session will be distributed by the ECE secretariat in advance of the plenary session to consult the CES member countries. The Bureau will submit a proposal for discussion and approval by the Conference.

### **Annex I: List of additional documents for the 2004 plenary session**

The following documents represent reports on the various activities carried out by the ECE secretariat in fulfilment of the work programme of the Conference for the period since June 2003. They are distributed for information under item 3 of the provisional agenda and are not intended to be discussed at the plenary session.

#### **Agenda item 3**

##### Programme activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services

	<u>Document</u>
Report of the October 2003 meeting of the CES Bureau	Room Document *
Report of the February 2004 meeting of the CES Bureau	Room Document *

##### Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues

Report of the October 2003 Work Session on Statistical Data Editing	CES/2003/40
Report of the December 2003 Work Session on Dissemination of Statistical Commentary and Stories	CES/2003/41
Report of the February 2004 Work Session on Statistical Metadata	CES/2004/36
Report of the May 2004 Meeting on Management of Statistical Information Systems	CES/AC.71/2004/2

##### Programme activity 3: Economic statistics

Report of the June 2003 Seminar on Business Registers	CES/SEM.50/2
Report of the July 2003 Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe	CES/AC.61/2003/2
Report of the October 2003 Special Session on National Accounts for Transition Economies	CES/2004/35
Report of the December 2003 Meeting on Consumer Price Indices	CES/AC.49/2003/2
Report of the December 2003 Statistical Workshop on Monitoring the Information Society	CES/SEM.52/1
Report of the April 2004 Meeting on National Accounts	CES/AC.68/2004/2

##### Programme activity 4: Social and demographic statistics

Report of the May 2004 Work Session on Health Statistics	CES/2004/37
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\* Also available on the ECE Web site

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