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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
ORGANISATION (ILO)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

**Joint ECE/ILO Meeting
on Consumer Price Indices
(Geneva, 1-2 November 2001)**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on 1 November 2001 at 09 :30 a.m.*

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Information items:
 - Report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) and the Technical Expert Group for updating the Handbook on CPI (TEG-CPI)
 - Report by the Ottawa Group
 - Report by Eurostat
4. Treatment of quality changes in consumer price indices
 - Practical experiences

* On 31 October 2001, a special session on CPI for transition economies will be convened starting at 10 :00 a.m.

5. New data sources and technologies for data collection
 - Implication for sampling and index construction
 - Use of scanner data and other electronic data collection methods
6. Practical issues in maintaining the representative sample (e.g. methods for reflecting “new goods” appropriately)
7. Follow-up on choice of cost of living index vs. pure price index
 - Practical implications and consequences
8. Treatment of electronic commerce in consumer price indices
 - Dealing with new products’ prices and outlets in trading via Internet
9. Future work
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report

Provisional timetable and notes on the items of the agenda

The meeting on Consumer Price Indices is convened jointly by ECE and ILO pursuant to the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians taken at its forty-eight plenary session, in June 2000 (see report of the session ECE/CES/58 and CES/2000/26/Add.3).

Under items 4-8 only invited papers are listed. Contributed papers submitted by countries and organisations will be introduced and commented on by the discussants.

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER

9:30-9:40 Items 1 and 2

9:40-10:30 Item 3: INFORMATION ITEMS

Information will be provided on the following events and activities:

- Meetings of the Technical Expert Group established to update the Handbook on CPI and the progress in work on drafting of the new Manual
- Update of the work by the Ottawa Group
- Update of the work by Eurostat
- Planned activities of IWGPS, TEG-CPI and the Ottawa Group
- Other events of interest

10:30-10:50 Coffee break

Item 4: TREATMENT OF QUALITY CHANGES IN CONSUMER PRICE INDICES - PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

- 10:50-11:00 Discussant: Mr. C. Boldsen Hansen, Statistics Denmark
- 11:00-11:20 Invited paper 1: “Hedonic Regressions: A Consumer Theory Approach”
 Author: E. Diewert, University of British Columbia, Canada
- 11:20-11:40 Invited paper 2: “Why the CPI matched models method may fail us: results from an hedonic and matched experiment using scanner data”
 Author: Mr. Mick Silver and Mr. Saeed Heravi, BLS, USA
- 11:40-12:30 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers
- 12:30-14:30 Lunch

Item 5: NEW DATA SOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR DATA COLLECTION

- 14:30-14:40 Discussant: Mr. David Fenwick, UK
- 14:40-15:10 Invited paper 3: “Using scanner data to complete price indices: solving some practical problems”
 Author: Mrs. Cecile Schut, CBS, Netherlands
- 15:10-15:30 Invited paper 4: "Introduction of Paperless Technology for Collection of Data on Prices in Russia"
 Author: Mrs. Irina Goryacheva, State Committee of the Russian Federation on Statistics
- 15:30-15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45-16:30 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

16:30-17:30 Item 9: FUTURE WORK

Based on a proposal of ECE/ILO programme committee the meeting will discuss and agree on future joint ECE/ILO work in consumer price indices. The secretariat will submit proposals on the basis of country suggestions and of the discussions as the meeting proceeds for the approval of the Conference of European Statisticians.

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Item 6: PRACTICAL ISSUES IN MAINTAINING THE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE

- 9:30-9:40 Discussant: Mr. Paul Haschka, Statistics Austria
- 9:40-10:00 Invited paper 5: “Practical issues in maintaining representative price samples”
Author: Mrs. Marie Allard-Saulnier and Mr. Robin Lowe, Statistics Canada
- 10:00-10:20 Invited paper 6: “Sampling in Consumer Price Indices: How scanner data might help”
Author: Mr. David Fenwick and Mr. Adrian Ball, ONS, United Kingdom
- 10:20-10:40 Coffee break
- 10:40-11:40 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

Item 7: FOLLOW-UP ON CHOICE OF COST OF LIVING INDEX vs. PURE PRICE INDEX

- 11:40-11:50 Discussant: Mr. Peter Hill, UK
- 11:50-12:10 Invited paper 7: “The U.S. CPI and the Cost-of-Living Objective”
Author: Mr. John Greenlees, BLS, USA
- 12:10-12:30 Invited paper 8: “Cost-of-living Index (COLI) as Target for the Swedish CPI”
Author: Mr. M. Ribe, Statistics Sweden
- 12:30-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-15:30 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers
- 15:30-15:50 Coffee break

Item 8: TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

- 15:50-16:00 Discussant: Mr. Rob Edwards, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- 16:00-16:20 Invited paper 9: Electronic Commerce and the CPI
Author: Mr. Keith Woolford, ABS, Australia
- 16:20-17:00 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

17:00-17:10 Item 10: OTHER BUSINESS

17:10-17:30 Item 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT