

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Third Meeting of the 2006/2007 Bureau
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-13 February 2007

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Bureau meeting will take place in room XI in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday, 12 February 2007.

The meeting will be held with simultaneous translation into English, French and Russian. The documents for the meeting (in English only) will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

1. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF SELECTED STATISTICAL AREAS

The in-depth review of selected statistical areas is customary for the February meetings of the Bureau. At its October 2006 meeting, the Bureau decided to look at strategic issues in economic and social statistics in the next five or so years rather than reviewing the current issues and problems. The Bureau also selected the areas for in-depth review in February 2007 and designated countries/international organizations to prepare the reports as follows:

- (a) SDMX initiative (Note to be prepared by the SDMX sponsors);
- (b) Population statistics with emphasis on annual data (Note to be prepared by UNECE secretariat and consulted with UNSD);
- (c) Business statistics, excluding macroeconomic statistics (Note to be prepared by UNECE secretariat, notes to be prepared by R. Edwards, D. Trewin, P. Everaers and H. Jeskanen-Sundström, input from all Bureau members requested).

The Bureau is expected to discuss the papers and to select one of the topics for in-depth review at the 2007 plenary session of the Conference.

2. MEETING WITH MR. BELKA, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Traditionally, the Bureau meets with the Executive Secretary and the representatives of the Bureau of UNECE during the February meeting.

3. REVIEW OF THE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE UNECE REGION (Resubmission of the note by UNECE secretariat: ECE/CES/BUR/2006/OCT/20)

At its February meeting, in addition to the in-depth review of selected statistical areas, the Bureau has made a general review of the international statistical work undertaken in other areas. In 2005, it was decided that the review will be based on a paper prepared by the

UNECE secretariat with the help of other international organizations. The first version of the paper was presented at the 2006 February Bureau meeting and updated for the October 2006 meeting. However, the compilation of the document requires substantial resources and continuous maintenance to keep the document up-to-date. The Bureau considered briefly the paper on Issues and Problems in October but proposed to turn back to the issue in February 2007.

The Bureau is invited to discuss the paper on issues and problems, and to decide whether there is rationale for maintaining such a document and how to proceed in future.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2007 PLENARY SESSION AND THE TWO SEMINARS

- (a) Organization of the first seminar: increasing the efficiency and productivity of statistical offices (outline prepared by Latvia);
- (b) Organization of the second seminar: measurement of capital – beyond the traditional measures (outline prepared by the Netherlands);
- (c) Preparation of the formal session on Wednesday, 13 June, morning;
- (d) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2007 plenary session (Note by UNECE secretariat).

The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the three sessions: a formal session and the two seminar sessions.

5. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CES SEMINAR ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING (2006) (Note by I. Fellegi and J. Fischer)

The Bureau had the first discussion on the follow-up actions to the seminar on human resources and training at its October 2006 meeting. Based on the discussion, Mr. Fellegi and Mr. Fischer were asked to prepare the proposed Terms of Reference for a group to organise a meeting in 2008. Furthermore, the UNECE secretariat will inform the Bureau about the progress in preparing the Proceedings of the Seminar.

The Bureau is invited to comment and approve the TOR for the follow-up work on human resources and training.

6. COORDINATION OF WORK ON GLOBALISATION (Note by UNECE secretariat with R. Lynch and P. Smith)

The CES plenary session discussed statistics on globalisation in June 2006 based on a Rapporteur Report prepared by the United Kingdom and Canada. The Conference decided that there is a need for a body to coordinate work on globalisation statistics. The Bureau had the first discussion on the follow-up work on globalisation statistics at its October 2006 meeting.

The Bureau is invited to comment and approve the updated proposal for coordination of work on globalisation statistics.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE CES TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS

(a) Confidentiality aspects of statistical data integration (Note by Brian Pink)

The Bureau discussed the creation of a Task Force on Confidentiality Aspects of Statistical Data Integration at its October 2006 meeting. The revised TOR will be presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(b) Business registers (Note by UNECE secretariat)

The Bureau discussed the revised TOR for the Steering Group on business registers at its October 2006 meeting. An updated TOR, taking into account the Bureau's comments, will be presented for comments and approval.

(c) Price statistics (Note by UNECE secretariat)

The Bureau discussed the draft of the TOR for a possible Steering Group on price statistics in October 2006. After careful consideration, the UNECE does not find it necessary to maintain a Steering Group on price statistics in addition to other groups already working in this area, particularly the IWGPS. Instead, it is proposed to set up an Organising Committee to prepare the Joint UNECE/ILO meetings on Consumer Price Indices.

A proposal is presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

(d) Sustainable development (Note by the WGSSD)

The Bureau considered the work of the UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group on Sustainable Development at its October 2006 meeting and gave guidance on how to proceed further.

A progress report will be presented to the Bureau for information.

(e) Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems (Note by the UNECE secretariat)

The Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems was set up in 2002. Its work was reviewed in 2004. A progress report will be presented to the Bureau for information.

(f) Task Force on Common Metadata Framework (Note by the UNECE secretariat)

The Task Force on Common Metadata Framework was set up in 2004 to organise available information about statistical metadata related to official statistics into a framework that can be used in the development of metadata systems. The Bureau reviewed the work in 2005. A progress report will be presented to the Bureau for information.

(g) Task Force on UNECE gender database (Note by UNECE secretariat)

The external assessment of the UNECE statistical databases recommended creating a Task Force for the gender database to advise UNECE on the database and the areas that need improvement. The TOR for the Task Force are presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

8. FOLLOW-UP ON HEALTH STATISTICS (Information by UNECE secretariat and the Steering Group on Measuring Health Status (J. Madans))

The Bureau discussed the coordination of health statistics in October 2006. The Bureau will be informed about the follow-up to the discussion.

9. PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNECE TRANSPORT DATABASE (Note by UNECE secretariat)

Following up on the recommendation of the UNECE Executive Committee to strengthen the intersectoral activities, the UNECE secretariat is proposing a joint activity between the CES and the Inland Transport Committee (ITC), namely to undertake an external evaluation of the transport database maintained by the Transport Division. The proposal is presented to the Bureau for comments and approval.

10. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2006 UNECE STATISTICAL PROGRAMME (Note by UNECE secretariat)

A short report on the work undertaken by the UNECE Statistical Division in 2006 will be presented. Referring to the decision of the Bureau in October 2006, this report will also be used in the context of the UN biennial evaluation and programme performance report.

The report is presented to the Bureau for comments.

11. DATES AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETINGS

Under this agenda item, the Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Bureau is asked to discuss briefly the need to improve the understanding of new CES members about the place and role of the Conference within the UN system (based on a note prepared by the UNECE secretariat).

Under this item, the Bureau will also be asked to decide which papers from the meeting will be made available on Internet in line with the Bureau decision to make its work public and transparent.

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