

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For discussion

Third meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau
Geneva, 12-13 February 2008

Item 2a of the Provisional
Agenda

COMMENTS ON RAPPORTEUR REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Note prepared by Germany

1. The document describes the state of the art of environmental reporting in an adequate way. The document makes clear that various institutions and bodies are involved in data production in the area of environment and that coordination of data capture, validation of data and providing data is and will remain a continuous task.
2. That the present provisions in the area of environmental statistics are sufficient is doubtful.
3. Four comments seem to be important from our side (looking at the medium term developments):
 - from our point of view voluntary reporting should be abandoned, as we have the new Waste Statistics Regulation which is highly comprehensive. We do not need additional information. We see no reason for further data needs exceeding the requirements of this Regulation;
 - "prefilling" of the questionnaire at first sight seems to be a harmless notion as one can associate simple technical help with it (with regard to filling out the questionnaires). But what is really required here are in fact estimations on the basis of older data. From our point of view we should rely on data stemming from the new Waste Statistics Regulation. We object to estimating data (to correct data of the Waste Statistics Regulation);
 - validation of data should take place more on the international level and not so much on national level;
 - the development of further Guidelines on data quality, as recommended in the document, is not necessary from our point of view as they exist already. It is our position that we need more handbooks for the single areas of data collection instead.
4. Doc. Add/1 - Environmental Statistics: the discrepancy between the description of the activities of the World Bank and reality is interesting mainly with regard to the activities of UNCEEA and the London Group (s. p. 5) .

* * * * *