

Second Meeting of the 2011/2012 Bureau
Geneva, Switzerland, 2-3 November 2011

For decision

Item 4(e) of the Provisional
Agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AN EXPERT MEETING ON DATA
COLLECTION**

Prepared by the UNECE secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The report of the 2011 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) states:

“The Conference noted that expert groups exist in several horizontal areas of official statistics, but that there is currently no forum to discuss organisational and management aspects of data collection, such as monitoring, risk management, cost control, etc. It was proposed to create an expert group under the CES to cover the related topics. A key issue for this group would be economies of scale from the use of common tools and methods. The CES Bureau will discuss the possible creation of such a group at its forthcoming meeting.”

2. At its meeting immediately following the plenary session, the Bureau decided:

“... to wait for the outcome of the workshop organized by the High-Level Group on Strategic Issues in Business Architecture in Statistics on 31 October-1 November 2011 before taking any decision on follow-up actions to the CES seminar. A suggestion was also made to organize a one-off expert meeting on data collection in 2012. Following this, the Bureau will consider whether there is a need for an ongoing activity on this topic.”

3. This paper sets out proposals for the organisation of the expert group meeting on data collection, for consideration by the Bureau.

II. PROPOSALS

4. The UNECE secretariat proposes to:

(a) Organise an expert group meeting on data collection in autumn 2012. The meeting could be held at the end of October in Geneva, though suggestions of alternative locations are welcome;

(b) Seek the assistance of leading national experts in the field of data collection to ensure a relevant and interesting agenda, including the issues mentioned in the report of the 2011 CES plenary session. Informal contacts with several experts (e.g. from Ireland and the

United States) have indicated a strong willingness and interest in assisting the secretariat in organising the meeting;

(c) Ensure that the agenda is fully consistent with the vision and strategy of the High-Level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics;

(d) Report back to the Bureau following the expert group meeting, so that the Bureau can decide whether or not this should become an on-going activity within the CES work programme.

5. The Bureau is invited to confirm the organisation of an expert group meeting, in line with the proposals from the secretariat.

6. The Bureau members are also invited to identify potential experts from their organisations to assist the secretariat in developing the content of the meeting.

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