



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/CES/57
10 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-eighth plenary session
(Paris, 13-15 June 2000)

Annotated provisional agenda of the 2000 plenary session

The plenary session will start at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday 13 June. **Delegates are asked to note that the Conference will meet on Wednesday 14 June from 9:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00, and that Thursday 15 June will be a full day (9:30-12:30 and 14:30-17:15.**

The plenary session will be held at the OECD in Paris (Chateau de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal). Delegates should arrive at the Chateau at about 2:00 on Tuesday to allow time for security clearance and registration. More general information is given in document CES/2000/INF.1.

Documents for the meeting may be downloaded from the Web site that has been specially prepared for this meeting:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2000.06.ces.htm>

Introduction

1. The Conference's attention is drawn to agenda items 3 and 7 which are the key items on the agenda of this year's plenary session:

- **Item 3 - Integrated presentation and co-ordination of international statistical work in the ECE region:** In order to have a more focused discussion under this item and still allow time for the Conference to

review other parts of the work programme, the Bureau has decided to divide the time allocation for this agenda into four roughly equal parts.

Three of those parts are for the three programme elements that the Bureau has selected for having an in-depth review. They are quality assessments of statistics (part of P.E. 3.2), harmonised CPIs (part of P.E. 3.9), and agriculture statistics (part of P.E. 3.10). They are to be discussed on the basis of papers that are being contributed by the Bulgaria and Switzerland (CES/2000/5-6), Poland (CES/2000/7) and Estonia (CES/2000/8). The fourth segment has been reserved for the Conference to review planned future work of the international organisations in the remaining 40 or so programme elements in the Conference's work programme. Bureau members have been designated to briefly introduce these elements in groups under each of the six programme activity areas in the Integrated Presentation and to identify strategic issues in each of the six areas. More information is given in the notes below.

- **Item 7 - "How international comparability is affected by recent developments with users and with potential administrative sources"** is the topic for substantive discussion at this year's plenary session. Statistics Netherlands has organised the preparations for this session and it will chair the session. This session will be in the form of a seminar, and it will last about a day but has a tight timetable and will finish at 4:30 on Thursday. More information is given in the notes below.

2. The Conference is expected to complete most of its work by 4:45 on Thursday, 15 June. The final 30 minutes of the plenary session will be devoted to the adoption of the report of the 2000 plenary session. The session is expected to finish its business by 5:15 p.m. on Thursday.

3. The documents intended for discussion are listed in the agenda shown in the table on page 3. Annex I lists additional background documents that have been produced as part of the documentation of the plenary session. These background documents are not intended to be discussed at the plenary session, unless members of the Conference wish to do in discussion under item 3 of the agenda. All the documents for the meeting will be distributed for the meeting in the usual way, but they will also be available on the ECE World Wide Web page in English, French and Russian as they become available. The address is as follows:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2000.06.ces.htm>

4. It should also be noted that since the 1999 plenary session two members of the Bureau (Adrian Abrahamse and Edvard Outrata) left their posts as head of their statistical offices. Therefore, the Conference will have to elect two new Bureau members to serve out the remaining part of their terms. Additional information is given in the notes below.

Provisional agenda and timetable suggested by the Bureau

Time	Item	Topic	Document
Tuesday, 13 June (2:30 - 5:30)			
2:30-2:40	1	OPENING ADDRESSES and ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	ECE/CES/57
2:40-2:45	8	INTRODUCTION TO THE BUREAU ELECTIONS	CES/2000/1
2:45-2:55	2	MEETINGS OF THE PARENT BODIES OF THE CES (and of other important UN conferences) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The May 2000 session of the Economic Commission for Europe ● The March 2000 session of the UN Statistical Commission 	--- CES/2000/2 CES/2000/3
2:55	3	INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE REGION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chairman's introductory comments ● Quality reviews of statistical data (part of P.E. 3.2) Coffee/tea break ● Harmonised CPIs (part of P.E. 3.9) 	CES/2000/4 And Adda. 1-7 --- CES/2000/5-6 --- CES/2000/7
2:55-3:00			
3:00-4:00			
4:00-4:25			
4:25-5:30			
Wednesday, 14 June (9:00-12:00 and 2:00-5:00)			
9:00-10:00	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agriculture statistics (part of P.E. 3.10) ● The remaining 40 or so programme elements Coffee/tea break The remaining 40 or so programme elements (cont.) ● Prioritization of the CES work programme 	CES/2000/8 CES/2000/4 And Adda 1-7 CES/2000/9
10:00-10:20	cont.		
10:20-10:45			
10:45-11:50			
11:50-12:00			
2:00-2:25	4	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS	CES/2000/10
2:25-2:40	5	INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN S.E. EUROPE	CES/2000/11
2:40-3:00	6	RELATIONS BETWEEN OFFICIAL STATISTICIANS, ACADEMIC STATISTICIANS AND NGOS Coffee/tea break	Conference Room Handout
3:00-3:25			
3:25	7	HOW INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY IS AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS WITH USERS AND WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction ● Theme 1 	--- CES/2000/12&Ad1 CES/2000/13-15
3:25-3:30			
3:30-5:00			
Thursday, 15 June (9:30 - 12:30 and 2:30 - 5:15)			
9:30-9:45	7cont	Theme 1 (continued)	CES/2000/13-15
9:45-12:00	.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theme 2 (and coffee/tea break) ● Theme 3 	CES/2000/16-17 CES/2000/18-19
12:00-12:30			
2:30-3:45		Theme 3 (continued)	
3:45-4:10		Coffee/tea break	
4:10-4:30		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concluding comments 	
4:30-4:40	8	ELECTION OF BUREAU (continued)	CES/2000/1
4:40-5:15	9	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

The Bureau of the Conference proposed this provisional agenda and timetable at its January 2000 meeting. The provisional agenda and timetable are presented in more detail in this document for the approval of the Conference. To help ensure that the plenary session is as short and effective as possible, the procedures which the Conference approved at its 1994 session for improving the efficiency of the CES plenary sessions and applied at all subsequent sessions (**CES/821**) will be applied again during the 2000 session.

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

a) The May 2000 session of the Economic Commission for Europe

Information on the discussions held at the May 2000 session of the Economic Commission for Europe and on resolutions and decisions taken at it which have a bearing on the work of the Conference will be presented in **CES/2000/2**.

b) The March 2000 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission

Information on the conclusions reached and the decisions taken at the March 2000 meeting of the UN Statistical Commission that may have a bearing on the work of the Conference and on international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries will be presented in **CES/2000/3**.

Item 3: Integrated presentation and co-ordination of international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries

Please refer to the references to agenda item 3 in para. 1 of the introduction of this document.

The co-ordination of international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries and the taking of decisions on the Conference's own work programme are two of the most important functions that the Conference is expected to perform at each plenary session. These responsibilities will be carried out under this agenda item. Therefore, **under this item the Conference is expected to take decisions on its own work programme and that of the ECE's Population Activities Unit, and, when considered appropriate, to offer guidance and advice to other international and supranational organisations and to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies on planned activities in their work programmes that relate to ECE, Eurostat and OECD countries.**

Discussion is expected to focus primarily on the material presented in documents **CES/2000/4** and its addenda. However, if need be, the various background documents listed in the Annex of the provisional agenda are also available for reference.

The complete integrated presentation is too large and too wide-ranging to produce in a single document. It is therefore presented in several addenda (**CES/2000/4 and addenda 1-6**, corresponding to each of the six programme activities covering more than 40 programme elements in the Conference's work programme). Each of these documents contains brief descriptions of the conclusions reached by the Bureau in its review of the work that was carried out in the Conference's work programme since the 1999 plenary session and in its review of work planned to be carried out in the next two years. The Bureau's proposals for decisions by the Conference are included in each of these documents project by project.

Document **CES/2000/4** also contains an annex in which information is given on the resources which are expected to be available in the ECE during the period from July 2000 to June 2002 for servicing the Conference's work programme.

Document **CES/2000/4/Add.7** is also an important document. It contains up-to-date information on the outcome of work conducted in projects in the Conference's work programme during the first six months of 2000.

Under this agenda item the Conference is also expected to agree to a proposed prioritisation of its work programme, in the standard form that the Economic Commission for Europe has called upon all its Principal Subsidiary Bodies to use. The proposed prioritisation of the Conference's work programme has been prepared by the secretariat and endorsed by the Bureau of the Conference. It will be presented in **CES/2000/9** for approval by the Conference.

Item 4: Sustainable development indicators

The Bureau agreed that it would be useful to have an agenda item at the 2000 plenary session to permit the OECD to inform the Conference of its work and plans in this field. OECD has agreed to prepare a short paper for the plenary session for this purpose (**CES/2000/10**).

Item 5: International statistical work in Southeast Europe

The Bureau noted that there are many actions taking place related to the reconstruction of Southeast Europe including many which are in the field of statistics. As with many such activities, significant amounts of resources are expected to be devoted to this work, but this underlines the need to ensure adequate co-ordination so that the resources will be used most

effectively and efficiently. Eurostat has agreed to contribute a paper to facilitate the Conference's discussion of this subject (CES/2000/11).

Item 6: Relations between official statisticians, academic statisticians and NGOs

At its 1999 plenary session the Conference asked the Bureau to study possible ways of strengthening the links and co-operation between statisticians working in the field of official statistics and academic statisticians. As a first step in this, the Bureau asked Pilar Martín-Guzman to send a questionnaire to national statistical offices in the ECE region to obtain feedback from them on the existing institutional infrastructure for links and co-operation between the two groups of statisticians in their countries. The questionnaire is expected to be sent to countries in late March or early April. Pilar Martín-Guzman will prepare a short overview paper for the plenary session summarising the results that have been achieved to date and planned future work, and distribute it at the plenary session as a room document (Conference Room Handout).

Item 7: How international comparability is affected by developments with users and with administrative sources

Please refer to the references to item 7 in para. 1 of the introduction to this document.

Each year the plenary session has the opportunity to discuss, in the form of a seminar, a topic of particular interest to heads of national statistical offices. On this occasion the members of the Conference are invited to comment in substantive discussion on the topic "How international comparability is affected by developments with users and with administrative sources". The Bureau asked Adrian Abrahamse of Statistics Netherlands to organise and chair the seminar session. However, since Mr. Abrahamse recently left Statistics Netherlands, Mr. Henk van Tuinen, a member of the Board of Directors of Statistics Netherlands, will organise and chair the session. Details concerning the session are outlined in CES/2000/12. In addition, an introductory paper to the session will be issued as CES/2000/12/Add.1.

There will be **three main themes**:

1. The need for more timely information versus reliability and international comparability. Statistics Netherlands has asked the European Central Bank, Germany and the United States to prepare Invited Papers on this theme, and they will be issued as CES/2000/13-15. Supporting papers that countries contribute relating to this theme will be issued as CES/2000/15/Add.1, etc.

2. The use of administrative sources for statistics and international comparability. Statistics Netherlands has asked Denmark and France to prepare Invited Papers on this theme, and they will be issued as **CES/2000/16-17**. Supporting papers that countries contribute relating to this theme will be issued as **CES/2000/17/Add.1**, etc.

3. The changing use of statistics in transition economies. Statistics Netherlands has asked Hungary and the Russian Federation to prepare Invited Papers on this theme, and they will be issued as **CES/2000/18-19**. Supporting papers that countries contribute relating to this theme will be issued as **CES/2000/19/Add.1**, etc.

A report of the discussion will not be adopted at the end of the session (see agenda item 9) but a summary will be distributed to participants within about two weeks of the plenary session.

Item 8: Election of Bureau members for 2000/2001

At the 1999 plenary session the Conference elected a new six member Bureau for a two-year term that expires at the closing of the 2001 plenary session. However, in the autumn of 1999 two of the newly elected Bureau members, Adrian Abrahamse of the Netherlands and Edvard Outrata of the Czech Republic, left their statistical offices. Consequently, two new Bureau members will need to be elected at the plenary session to replace them for the remaining portion of their two-year term.

The following four persons will continue to serve on the Bureau until their term expires at the closing of the 2001 plenary session: Svein Longva of Norway (Chair), Pilar Martín-Guzman (Spain), Hallgrímur Snorrason (Iceland) and Rein Veetõusme (Estonia). In the autumn of 1999 the Bureau also co-opted Donal Murphy of Ireland and Tadeusz Toczyński of Poland to serve on the Bureau until elections of two new members take place at the 2000 plenary session. The procedures to be followed in electing the new Bureau were approved by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session (see **CES/2000/1**). The election is open to all delegates who are heads of national statistical offices, including previous Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

In accordance with the procedures agreed by the Conference at the 1991 plenary session, the process of electing the new Bureau will be carried out by Carlo Malaguerra, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Switzerland, who is the most senior former Chairman of the Conference. After discussions with delegates, he will make proposals for the Conference's approval.

Item 9: Adoption of the report, and closing of the plenary session

The Conference is expected to adopt the report of the present plenary session before it adjourns. To enable this to be accomplished as quickly as

possible and during the limited time available, the Bureau has asked the secretariat to follow the same procedure that was used at recent plenary sessions. The report will therefore be short and will be limited as far as possible to decisions taken by the Conference during the course of the plenary session. Since the seminar discussion that takes place on the topic for substantive discussion (agenda item 7) is not expected to lead to decisions, the draft report will not include a record of that discussion. However, as noted above, a summary of it will be prepared after the plenary session and mailed to all members of the Conference within about two weeks. That summary will also be incorporated in the final report of the plenary session that will be produced a month or so after the plenary session. The final report of the plenary session will also be made available on the ECE's Web site for the plenary session.

Delegates are asked to confine their suggestions for amendments to the report to those of a substantive nature (i.e. to correcting important errors or omissions). They are also asked to hand in any proposed new text in writing and if possible in English before the discussion of the adoption of the report.

The secretariat will distribute each part of the draft report as soon as it becomes available during the meeting, in each of ECE's three official working languages.

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Annex I: List of background documents for the 2000 plenary session

The following supplementary documents contain **background information** for several items of the provisional agenda. They are listed below by agenda item number. The Bureau considers that none of the documents listed below need be discussed at the plenary session. The documents intended for **discussion** at the plenary session are listed in the table on page three of this document.

Agenda item 1

	<u>Document</u>
Procedures to be followed for ensuring efficient plenary sessions	CES/821

Agenda item 3

<u>Programme activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services</u>	
PE 1.2: Report of the November 1999 meeting of the CES Bureau	CES/BUR.2000/17
PE 1.2: Report of the January 2000 meeting of the CES Bureau	CES/BUR.2000/30
<u>Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues</u>	
PE 2.1: Report of the May 2000 ISIS Seminar	CES/SEM.43/2
PE 2.3: Report of the September 1999 work session on statistical metadata	CES/2000/20
PE 2.6: Report of the April 2000 work session on methodological issues involving the integration of statistics and geography	CES/2000/25
<u>Programme activity 3: Economic statistics</u>	
PE 3.1: Report of the ECE's special session for transition countries at the OECD's September 1999 meeting on national accounts	CES/2000/21
PE 3.1: Report on the April 2000 ECE-Eurostat-OECD meeting on national accounts	CES/AC.68/2000/2
PE 3.9: Report of the November 1999 special session for transition countries at the CPI meeting	CES/2000/24
PE 3.9: Report of the November 1999 ECE-ILO meeting on consumer price indices	CES/AC.49/1999/2
PE 3.12: Report of the November 1999 ECE-Eurostat-OECD/IEA Meeting on energy statistics	CES/2000/23
<u>Programme activity 4: Social and demographic statistics</u>	
PE 4.10: Report of the May 2000 ECE-Eurostat-ILO seminar on measurement of the quality of employment	CES/SEM.41/2
PE 4.11: Report of the May 2000 ECE-Eurostat work session on Migration statistics	CES/SEM.42/2
<u>Programme activity 5: Environment statistics</u>	
PE 5.1: Report of the October 1999 work session on methodological issues of environment statistics	CES/2000/22

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