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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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(Paris, 10-12 June 2002)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2002/2003 AND 2003/2004:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of this document and its addenda

1. The main purposes of the plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians are for the Conference to coordinate the statistically related work that various international and supranational organizations carry out in the ECE region, and for the Conference to decide on its future work programme. The CES plenary session has become the forum in which the work programmes of all other international and supranational agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas (including the European Union) are considered and reviewed in the context of the CES programme. Although the Conference has no jurisdiction over the work programmes of other agencies because they have their own decision-making bodies, the Conference has authority based on its comprehensive and very senior membership, and its longstanding history of scrutinising and co-ordinating international statistical work.
2. Increasingly, too, as this document and its addenda show, expert meetings are organised jointly by two or more agencies such as the ECE with Eurostat, OECD and other international organizations.
3. For these reasons, one of the most important documents that is considered at each plenary session of the Conference is always the Integrated Presentation of the Programmes of Work of

the 25 or so international agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas that are presented in this document and its addenda. This single comprehensive document is intended to bring together all the information necessary to enable the plenary session to make well-informed decisions about future work in its own programme and to comment and give advice on statistical work planned to be undertaken by other institutions. It is important to note too that the work is considered in the light of objectives defined by national statistical offices rather than by international secretariats. More details are given under the heading "Background information" below.

4. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared after the Conference of European Statisticians's 10-12 June 2002 plenary session. It reflects the various decisions that the Conference took at the plenary session.

Mandate of the Conference

5. The Integrated Presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives as confirmed by the Conference at its 1991 plenary session, as follows (see ECE/CES/38, Annex II, para. 2):

- to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other appropriate bodies, as necessary;
- to promote close co-ordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices; and
- to respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the ECE region and between the ECE region and other regions.

Background information

6. The Integrated Presentation contained in this document and in its six addenda, each dealing with a different work area, provides an overview of the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years by all of the major international organizations that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation also provides summary information on the planned future statistically-related work programme of the UN/ECE, Eurostat, OECD and approximately two dozen other international organizations working in this region.

7. The material presented in the Integrated Presentation is intended to assist the Conference in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out by international organizations in the next two years that is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. Countries also use the Integrated Presentation as a valuable tool for coordination at the national level, as a tool for helping them in deciding on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organizations.

8. In many of the programme elements contained in this version of the Integrated Presentation there are references to various issues in individual fields of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considered warranted being brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session. These issues are listed in the Integrated Presentation in each programme element under the heading "Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following". It also lists under the heading "Decisions taken by the Conference" various decisions that the Conference took in each work area during the plenary session.

9. The major innovations that the CES Bureau has introduced into this year's version of the Integrated Presentation are the following:

- a) **The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of Programme Activities 3 and 5 (see Table 1) since the 2001 plenary session.** (The Bureau conducts similar types of in-depth reviews of three programme activities each year, so as to ensure that the entire work programme is reviewed in depth every two years).
- b) **Review of some parts of the Integrated Presentation in greater depth:** In accordance with past practise, because of the large size of the Integrated Presentation, only selected parts of the presentation are examined in greater depth at any given plenary session. In recent years, the Conference usually reviewed 3 or 4 programme elements in greater depth. However, since at this year's plenary session more time was reserved for the ceremonial celebrations that were part of the 50th anniversary plenary session of the Conference, this year the Bureau had selected only one programme element to be reviewed in greater depth, namely, PE 2.2, Statistical data collection and processing, which was reviewed on the basis of papers by Norway, the OECD and the IMF.
- c) **Review of other parts of the Integrated Presentation:** Prior to the 2001 plenary session, after the Conference had reviewed the selected programme elements in greater depth, about 30-40 minutes was reserved to permit the Conference to review the 40 or so remaining Programme Elements in a more general or cursory manner. At this year's plenary session, a much briefer period of time was available for this, because more time was reserved for the ceremonial celebrations that were part of the 50th anniversary plenary session of the Conference.
- d) **Presentation of information in the integrated Presentation according to a new format:** In this year's version of the Integrated Presentation, some new headings of sections of each Programme Element are used such as "Goal" (in place of "Objectives over the next several years" that was used in earlier editions of the Integrated Presentation), "Issues and problems", "Strategic medium-term objectives" and "Expected outcomes in the next two years". In addition to these changes in the wording of the headings, the information that is presented under each of these headings is generally presented in the form of "bullets". The secretariat introduced these innovations in an attempt to create a clearer and shorter text that will be easier for both countries and international organizations to read and digest.

- e) **Possible conversion of the Integrated Presentation into a database:** A brief time was also set aside during the plenary session to illustrate work in progress towards converting the Integrated Presentation into a data base product.

Structure of the Integrated Presentation

10. The Integrated Presentation is divided into six major work areas ("programme activities") which comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and they are in turn sub-divided into a total of 48 programme elements (see Table 1).

11. Programme activity 1 covers issues concerned with the general management of the programme of work of the Conference, issues of statistical policy that are of direct concern to heads of NSOs, and issues such as international coordination, technical assistance in statistics and relations with countries outside the ECE region (see CES/2002/32/Add.1).

12. Programme activity 2 deals with substantive cross-cutting issues (including the managerial aspects of such issues) of concern to NSOs, which do not relate to a specific subject-matter field of statistics (e.g. issues of information technology with relation to statistical work (see CES/2002/32/Add.2).

13. The core of the programme lies in the substantive programme activities 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social and demographic statistics, and environment statistics respectively. Each of these programme activities may address conceptual issues, standards, and questions of design, collection, production, dissemination and analysis of statistical data arising in their domains (see CES/2002/32/Add.3-5).

14. Programme activity 6 covers the coordination of international data collection, the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat (see CES/2002/32/Add.6).

15. The division of these six programme activities into 48 programme elements aims to be comprehensive while keeping the number of programme elements to a minimum, and consistent with the aims of the Conference. Each programme element is characterised by a statement of broad objectives and scope in a homogeneous area of statistical activity. The complete list of programme elements in the Conference's programme of work is provided in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in the Integrated Presentation in which information for the programme element can be found. The list of abbreviations used in the work programmes is given in Annex I.

16. While the structure and delineation of programme elements are expected to change slowly, the level of activity within programme elements will vary more rapidly between elements and over time. At any one time, some programme elements will be dormant, while others may be very active. For each planning period, the Conference will be required to review proposed goals and activities for particular programme elements and to decide on priorities.

17. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in ECE, EU and OECD countries. The following standard headings are used within each programme element.

GOALS: Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

ISSUES AND PROBLEMS: Issues and problems of concern to national and international statistical offices that countries consider should receive priority attention by international statistical offices.

STRATEGIC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES: Specific outputs expected by countries in the medium-term future (3 years or longer).

EXPECTED OUTCOME IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years as a result of international statistical work in each field of statistics.

ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING:
List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considered warranted being brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE: List of decisions on its programme of work that the Conference took in each work area during the 2002 plenary session

MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Sponsoring agency, title, date.

RAPPORTEUR: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Description of the major activities of agencies in each field of statistics in the period from June 2002 to June 2004. Information is also given in this section on **ECE resource implications** for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

Functions of Rapporteurs

18. The Conference has agreed that in programme elements where several international organizations are actively working, it would be useful for it to ask one agency to serve as the "rapporteur" for work in that field. Rapporteurs have now been appointed for most of the

programme elements. Rapporteurs report to the Bureau, who in turn take the reports into account in proposing changes to the integrated presentation.

19. Every year the Bureau of the Conference conducts an in-depth review of half of the Integrated Presentation, and in that way the entire work programme is reviewed in depth over a two-year cycle. During 2001/2002, the Bureau conducted an in-depth review of programme activities 3, 5 and 6 (see Table 1), and in 2002/2003 it will conduct an in-depth review of programme activities 1, 2 and 4. It conducts these in-depth reviews on the basis of the following material: (i) the amended version of the Integrated Presentation that is prepared immediately after the Conference's plenary session, and which reflects the outcome of the discussion that took place at the preceding plenary session (Addenda 1, 2 and 4 of CES/2002/32); and (ii) short reports that the Rapporteurs prepare for the Bureau in the fields of statistics covered by these work areas.

20. The specific functions which the Bureau asks the Rapporteurs to perform on behalf of the Conference are summarised below:

- to keep abreast of the relevant activities that are being undertaken by other relevant agencies, in order to fulfil the following function;
- to report to the Bureau, in short reports that are intended to be essentially issue- and strategic-oriented in character, on the extent to which progress is being made collectively by the agencies in meeting what is presented in the Integrated Presentation as the Member States' Goals and Objectives, and of their Strategic medium-term goals and Expected outcomes for international statistical work in a given field of statistics. The reports are to be submitted to the Bureau through the Secretary of the Conference, no later than the beginning of September each year for programme activities to be reviewed that year; the Bureau will report to the Conference the following June);
- to identify in their reports any important issues in their field of statistics which they consider warrant being brought to the attention of the Bureau and/or the Conference (e.g. key new issues, gaps, problems or developments);
- to advise the Bureau, through their candid reports, on how the goals, objectives and outputs might best be achieved; and
- in cases where a Programme Element has been selected by the Bureau as one for in-depth review at the forthcoming plenary session (see para. 9, sub-para (b), above), to prepare a paper for the plenary session relating to that programme element, which (together with a national paper) should serve as the basis of the Conference's in-depth review of that programme element; the Rapporteur's paper (like that of the country) should be issue-oriented for the Conference at large, and it should also contain concrete proposals for discussion and/or action.

Planned future development of the Integrated Presentation

21. The process of improving the integrated presentation is an on-going one. It will continue with the in-depth reviews of individual programme activities that the Bureau will conduct each year. The content and structure of future editions of the Integrated Presentation may also differ in the future, depending on the outcome of work in progress by the ECE secretariat, Eurostat and

the OECD, who are looking into the possibility of converting the Integrated Presentation into a database project.

Other relevant information

22. The list of abbreviations that are used by Eurostat and the OECD in describing their work programmes is given in Annex I.
23. Background information on ECE secretariat resources that will be available to help support the work programme of the Conference in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 is given in Annex II of this note. The Conference took this information into account when it reviewed its draft work programme at the 2002 plenary session.

Table 1. List of programme elements (PE) in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that PE can be found)

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/2002/32/Add.1)	<p>1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work</p> <p>1.2 Management and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices</p> <p>1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region</p> <p>1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)</p>
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2002/32/Add.2)	<p>2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure</p> <p>2.2 Statistical data collection and processing</p> <p>2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information</p> <p>2.4 Statistical classifications</p> <p>2.5 Statistical research and development</p> <p>2.6 Geographical and regional data</p> <p>2.7 Human resource development</p> <p>2.8 Sustainable development indicators</p>
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.3)	<p>3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts</p> <p>3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments</p> <p>3.3 International trade in goods</p> <p>3.4 Transport statistics</p> <p>3.5 Distributive trade</p> <p>3.6 International trade in services</p> <p>3.7 Tourism</p> <p>3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services</p> <p>3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities</p> <p>3.10 Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics</p> <p>3.11 Industrial statistics</p> <p>3.12 Energy statistics</p> <p>3.13 Science and technology statistics</p> <p>3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics</p> <p>3.99 Other work in the field of economic statistics</p>

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 4:</u> Social and demographic statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.4)	4.1 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households) 4.2a Population and housing censuses 4.2b Statistics on population groups of special interest 4.3 Human settlements and housing statistics 4.4 Labour statistics 4.5 Education and training statistics 4.6 Culture statistics 4.7a Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality 4.7b Social security statistics 4.8 Crime and criminal justice statistics 4.9 Health statistics 4.10 Gender statistics 4.11a Social indicators and frameworks 4.11b Multi-purpose social surveys 4.11c Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics
<u>Programme Activity 5:</u> Environment statistics (CES/2002/32/Add.5)	5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications and environmental databases 5.2 Environmental accounting
<u>Programme Activity 6:</u> Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2002/32/Add.6)	6.1 Dissemination of data and coordination of international data collection 6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat

**Annex I. List of more frequently used abbreviations employed
in the work programmes of Eurostat and the OECD**

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (Eurostat)
PAC	[Politique agricole commune]
CCEET	Centre for Co-operation with the European Economies in Transition [Centre pour la Coopération avec les Economies en Transition]
CDIS	Management Committee on Statistical Information (Eurostat) [Comité Directeur de l'Information Statistique]
CD-ROM	Compact disks with read-only memory
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
PECO	[Pays d'Europe centrale et orientale]
CESD	European Training Centre for Economists-Statisticians from Developing Countries (Eurostat) [Centre de formation des Economistes-Statisticiens des pays en voie de développement]
CIT	Countries in transition
CMFB	Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (Eurostat) [Comité des statistiques Monétaires, Financières et de Balance des paiements]
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government (Eurostat)
CFAB	[Classification des fonctions des administrations publiques]
CPA	Classification of Products according to Activity (Eurostat) [Classification des Produits liés aux Activités]
DGINS	Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [Conférence des Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique]
DOSES	Specific programme for the Research and Development of Statistical Expert Systems (Eurostat) [Programme spécifique de recherche-développement des systèmes experts en statistique]
DSIS	Distributed Statistics Information System (Eurostat) [Système d'Information Statistique Réparti]

EAA	Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat)
CEA	[Comptes économiques de l'agriculture]
ECCI	European Employment Cost Index (Eurostat)
ECHP	European Coordinated Household Panels (Eurostat)
ECMT	The European Conference of Ministers of Transport
CEMT	[Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports]
EEA	European Economic Area (Eurostat)
EEE	[Espace économique européen]
EEA	European Environment Agency (Eurostat)
AEE	[Agence européenne de l'environnement]
EECI	European Employment Costs Index (Eurostat)
	[Indice européen du coût de la main-d'oeuvre]
EHLASS	European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (Eurostat)
	[Système européen de contrôle des accidents au foyer et lors des activités de loisir]
EMI	European Monetary Institute (Eurostat)
IME	[Institut monétaire européen]
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union (Eurostat)
UEM	[Union économique et monétaire]
ESA	European System of integrated national Accounts (Eurostat)
SEC	[Système européen de comptes nationaux intégrés]
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (Eurostat)
SESPROS	[Système européen de statistiques intégrées de la Protection Sociale]
FISIMs	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (in the European System of Accounts, ESA 95)
GISCO	Geographic Information System for the Commission
NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (Eurostat)
	[Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes]
NIS	New Independent States (former Republics of the USSR)

NSI	Nouveaux Etats Indépendants National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat)
INS	[Instituts nationaux de statistique]
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (Eurostat) [Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques]
OWN/d	OECD World data Network
PHARE	Action plan for coordinated aid for restructuring economies in Poland and Hungary (Eurostat) [Pologne-Hongrie Assistance à la Restructuration des Economies]
PIT	Partners in Transition (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics)
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SCCTAS	Steering Committee to Coordinate Technical Assistance in Statistics to countries of the former Soviet Union
SERIEE	Collection of economic information on the environment (Eurostat) [Collecte d'informations économiques sur l'environnement]
SERT	Business statistics and telematics networks (Eurostat) [Statistiques des Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques]
SIRENE	System of Distributed Information on Energy (Eurostat)
SME PME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat) [Petites et moyennes entreprises]
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations]
SPC CPS	Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat) [Comité du Programme Statistique]
SPEL	Sectoral production and income model for Community Agriculture (Eurostat) [Modèle de la production et des revenus du secteur agricole communautaire]
TACIS	Technical Assistance CIS (Eurostat)
TES	Training of European Statisticians (Eurostat) [Formation des statisticiens européens]

TRAINS Transport Information System (Eurostat)
[Gestion statistique des transports terrestres]

UOE UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (joint questionnaire on education statistics)

Annex II

ECE secretariat resources expected to be available for the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004

1. The programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 is presented in addenda 1-7 of this note, in conjunction with the planned statistical work programmes of other international and supranational organizations whose work relates to ECE, EU and OECD countries.

2. This annex contains information on the amount of ECE secretariat resources that are expected to be available for the Conference's work programme for the two-year period commencing in July 2002, for the Conference to take into account when deciding on its own work programme.

3. In considering its draft programme of work for the coming two-year period, the Conference is also invited to take the following information about secretariat resources into account. It responds to the provisions of the Economic Commission for Europe's decisions "E (48)" on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe and "I (48)" on reporting from the Subsidiary Bodies to the Commission:

- The draft budget for the 2002-2003 biennium makes provision for the UN/ECE Statistical Division to be comprised of 36 regular budget posts¹. Twenty-one of the posts are expected to be available to serve the work programme of the Conference in 2002/2003, and the remaining 15 posts are intended for work that the Statistical Division performs for other Divisions of the ECE. The 15 posts refer to statistical support and advice (12 posts) the Statistical Division provides other divisions in the ECE, particularly Economic Analysis Division, and to the ECE Graphical Design Unit that provides graphics design work (3 posts) for all parts of the ECE. This resource base is supplemented by 5% of the UNOG (United Nations Office at Geneva) costs apportioned to ECE for conference services, personnel services and other services, a share of which is absorbed by the Conference of European Statisticians.
- The salary and related costs associated with these regular budget posts are expected to comprise more than 98% of the budgetary allocation, and the remaining part is composed of small amounts available for official travel, consultants, equipment and external printing of publications.
- The work of the Statistical Division is also expected to be supported during the 2002-2003 biennium by some extra-budgetary funds. The extra-budgetary funding involved pertains to the UNDP-financed project on social reporting and human development, which is aimed at assisting countries in transition in producing a wide

range of basic social statistics for inclusion in national and international yearbooks of social statistics.

- Of the 21 regular budget secretariat posts that are expected to be available to service the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, they are planned to be allocated to the following work areas during the coming year:
 - 23% will be devoted to programme activity 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services) (work in this area includes the work that is undertaken by the Statistical Division's Regional Adviser in Statistics and in the Division's extra-budgetary projects, that is aimed primarily at countries in transition);
 - 23% will be devoted to programme activity 2 (Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues);
 - 23% will be devoted to programme activity 3 (Economic statistics);
 - 6% will be devoted to programme activity 4 (Social and demographic statistics);
 - 9% will be devoted to programme activity 5 (Environment statistics); and
 - 16% will be devoted to programme activity 6 (Dissemination and support for secretariat activities).
- The number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation used to support the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in the past one-year period (i.e. from 1 April 2001 through 31 March 2002), in accordance with Commission Decision O(45), was 29 (this amounts to approximately 4.5% of the total number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation that ECE had during this period).

NOTE

¹ Thirty-five regular budget posts are in the "core" budget of the ECE (Section 18 of the UN budget). The thirty-sixth post is the Statistical Division's Regional Adviser post, which is financed from Section 21 ("Regular programme of technical cooperation") of the UN budget.