

**Third meeting of the 2000/2001 Bureau**

(Geneva, 31 January-1 February 2000)

**Summary of the main conclusions of the meeting****I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The third meeting of the 2000/2001 Bureau was held in Geneva from 31 January to 1 February 2001. The following members of the Bureau attended: Svein Longva (Chair), Len Cook (on 1 February), Hallgrímur Snorrason, Tadeusz Toczyński and Rein Veetousme. The following permanent participants also attended: Yves Franchet, Enrico Giovannini and Paola Garonna (Hermann Habermann was unable to attend). Carol Carson of the IMF and Mikhail Korolev of CIS/STAT also attended at the invitation of the Bureau. The meeting was also attended by Carmen Arribas of the National Statistical Institute of Spain whom the Chairman had invited to attend because of the seminar session that INE had agreed to organise at the 2001 plenary session at the request of the Bureau, and by Miroslav Macura of the ECE's Population Activities Unit. Members of the Bureau were assisted by the following persons: Jan Byfuglien of Statistics Norway; Mariahelena Figueira of Eurostat and Janice Owens of OECD. John Kelly of ECE served as Secretary of the meeting.

**II. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT UPDATED VERSION OF THE INTEGRATED PRESENTATION****a) Programme activity 1: Organization and operation of statistical services**

2. **PE 1.1, Promotion and co-ordination of multilateral statistical work:** The third sentence of the first bullet under the heading "Attention of the Conference is drawn to" should be amended to read: "The Bureau discussed several examples of co-ordination that are not up to the expected standard, such as conflicting mortality estimates produced by WHO-Geneva and the UN Population Division (see PE 4.9 for additional details)". And an additional bullet should be added to the "Attention of the Conference is called to" section, indicating that Eurostat and OECD are looking into the possibility of developing an annual work programme of joint activities which would provide a detailed outline of areas of common interest, targets and list of actions (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

3. **PE 1.2, Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of NSOs:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the increasing demand for regional statistics (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

4. **PE 1.3, Countries in transition in the ECE region:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the benefits that countries in transition could receive by receiving technical assistance from the international community to assist them to take advantage of the rapid developments that are occurring in the field of information and communications technology, particularly with respect to the emergence of new strategies for statistical data collection, data processing and dissemination (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

**b) Programme activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues**

5. **PE 2.1, Management of information technology infrastructure:** The bullet under the "Attention of the Conference is called to" section was considered too weak. The Bureau asked the

Rapporteur to strengthen it by expanding the text to include text on the expanding co-operation between NSIs and others (e.g. academia) in the field of research and development (**action by the ECE secretariat, as Rapporteur**). The Bureau also asked the Rapporteur to add two additional bullets to this section (in either this PE or in other relevant PEs in PA 2), referring to the outcome of the Washington November 2000 meeting on metadata and of the February 2001 meeting on management of statistical IT (**action by the ECE secretariat, as Rapporteur**).

6. **PE 2.2, Statistical data collection and processing:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the growing concern about issues of data privacy and confidentiality in statistical offices, and to the growing conflict NSIs are facing between on the one hand their desire to increase their usage of administrative records so as to lessen the response burden on respondents and increase the coverage of the statistical product and on the other to concerns about privacy and confidentiality (**action by the ECE secretariat, as Rapporteur**).

7. **PE 2.3, Dissemination and interchange of statistical information:** Attention of the Conference should be called to: (i) the outcome of the November 2000 meeting on metadata; (ii) the growing pressure on NSIs to provide the public with access to a wide range of statistics on the Internet free of charge; and (iii) the impact that the pressures for providing users with data on the Internet is having on pricing policies (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

8. **PE 2.4, Statistical classifications:** The third bullet of the “Attention of the Conference should be called to” section should be amended to refer to “The Bureau” (as opposed to the OECD) calling the attention of the Conference (**action by the ECE secretariat**). An additional bullet should also be added to the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section, pointing out that the statistical community does not adapt sufficiently quickly to needs of updating and amending classifications. The Bureau also considered that in such cases, international organisations that are recognised as having “responsibility” for given classifications should give consideration to the possibility of issuing “provisional or tentative” updated classifications that countries could use on an interim basis until such time as the new classification is adopted and approved in its final form (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

9. **PE 2.5, Statistical research and development:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the importance of solutions being developed through research and development programmes for the new concepts, methods and technologies that are needed in the field of statistics because of rapid developments that are occurring in the field of ICT (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

10. **PE 2.6, Geographical and regional data:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the growing demand for geographical and regional statistical data. In addition, the third bullet of the “attention of the Conference should be called to” section should be deleted (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

11. **PE 2.8, Sustainable development indicators:** Text should be added to the “Activities and means” section to refer to the work that the ECE’s Environment and Human Settlements Division plans to do on work related to the upcoming “Rio + 10” conference. In addition, an additional bullet should be added to the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section, referring to the fact that OECD’s next steps in work on sustainable development is to prepare a set of illustrative indicators and the required supporting information on indicators of sustainable development (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

c) **Programme activity 3: Economic statistics**

12. A general introductory note should be inserted at the beginning of PA 3, pointing out that the headings within the PEs have been changed to refer to the headings that are used in the other PAs of the IP, but that the content of the text under the headings has not yet been altered. The content of the text under the headings in PA 3 will be aligned in the autumn of 2001, when the Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of PAs 3, 5 and 6 (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

13. **P.E. 3.1, Implementation of the SNA:** Attention of the Conference should be drawn to (i) the key areas of economic statistics where it is considered most important that international organisations produce methodological manuals, and (ii) the “minimum set of standards for complying with the SNA '93 that the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts has developed for CITs (**action by the ECE secretariat**). Attention of the Conference should also be called to the fact that national accounts serve as the conceptual and empirical basis of a large proportion of NSIs' economic analysis and research, and that their analytical measurements are encountering greater difficulty in keeping up with the changing economic environment. The situation is also characterised in the European Region for growing pressure to develop short-term and structural statistics that can be used to monitor economic developments and to complement the SNA. There is a resulting growing problem of fragmentation. The national accounts serve as one of the few instruments available for helping to keep things together, and there is a need to further strengthen their empirical and analytical bases (**action by the ECE secretariat and Len Cook (see paras. 40 and 60 below)**).

14. **PE 3.2, Money and banking, Government finance, and Balance of payments:** Attention of the Conference should be called to key methodological work that has progressed in the past year in the development of manuals and related methodological materials, and a cross-reference to trade in services and its importance to balance of payments should be included in the relevant part of PE 3.2 of the IP (**action by the ECE secretariat, based on a formulation to be supplied by the IMF**).

15. **PE 3.4, Transportation and communication statistics:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the fact that international statistical work is being conducted in the field of transport statistics by various international organizations, but that there is comparatively little international statistical work underway in the field of communications. The Bureau agreed therefore that this PE should be re-named “Transport statistics”. It also agreed that there should also be a cross-reference in this PE to statistical work in the field of information and communication technology that is reported in PA 2 (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

16. **PE 3.6, International trade in services:** The Bureau agreed that the wording of the bullet in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended to refer to the approval of the manual on international trade in services, if the UN Statistical Commission approves the new manual at its March 2001 session. It also agreed that the references to the “CES” in the text under CIS/STAT in the “Activities and means” section should be corrected to refer to CIS/STAT (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

17. **PE 3.7, Tourism:** Attention of the Conference should be drawn to the success that different international organizations have experienced in developing and agreeing to joint data collection activities in this field, but that to maintain this progress the situation needs to be continually monitored (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

18. **PE 3.8, Other marketed services, and non-marketed services:** The text in the first two bullets in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section is too lengthy and should be shortened (**action by the ECE secretariat, drawing on, if necessary, amended input to be supplied by Eurostat and the OECD**). In addition, text should be added in the “Activities and means” section to show the work being carried out by UNSD in the field of non-profit institutions (e.g., by drawing on, for example, the fourth bullet under UNSD in PE 3.1) (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
19. **P.E. 3.9, Price statistics:** Attention of the Conference should be drawn to the increasing tendency to measure prices on the basis of bar codes, and to the fact that work on the preparation of a new manual on prices is progressing (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
20. **PE 3.10, Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics:** The text in the bullets in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be shortened, to focus more on management-related issues (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
21. **PE 3.11, Industrial statistics:** Items a, c and d for the OECD shown in the “Activities and means” section of PE 3.XX should be moved to PE 3.11. In addition, the text in the first bullet in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended to refer to the fact that joint data collection has already started. In addition, text should be added to the “Activities and means” section to reflect the work that ECE does in the field of manufacturing technology (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).
22. **PE 3.13, Science and technology statistics:** The text currently shown under the “Strategic medium-term goals” heading should be moved to the “activities and means” section, and the missing text relating to the medium-term goals should be added (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
23. **PE 3.14, Business records and administrative records in support of economic statistics:** Attention of the Conference should be drawn to (i) the increasing concerns some countries have about confidentiality issues in this field, and (ii) the importance of using links between business registers and international trade statistics in studies of globalization (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
- d) Programme activity 4: Social and demographic statistics**
24. **PE 4.1, Demographic statistics:** The Bureau agreed that the text of the “Problem statement” should be expanded to refer to the difficulties that NSIs encounter in measuring international migration flows. In addition, attention of the Conference should be drawn to the upcoming Madrid and Berlin conferences on aging, and the wording of the other bullets in the “Attention of the Conference should be called to” section of this PE (and of the other PEs in PA 4) should refer to conclusions that the Bureau brings to the attention of the Conference (rather than to conclusions that the Rapporteur brings to the attention of the Bureau) (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).
25. **PE 4.2a, Population and housing censuses:** The bullet in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended to refer to problems that several countries in the region (and especially several CIS countries) have encountered in financing their 2000 round census (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
26. **PE 4.4, Labour statistics:** The last two bullets in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be deleted, and the content presented in the first two bullets of this section should be shortened (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

27. **PE 4.6, Culture statistics:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the fact that this is a field of statistics which the international statistical community devotes comparatively little attention to. The Bureau considered that this should also be reflected in the “Problem statement” (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
28. **PE 4.7a, Statistics of household income, etc.:** The text in the last bullet of the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended to show that the situation referred to applies to EU and EEA countries. In addition, list of “Focal points” under the “Household income statistics Group” heading in the “Activities and means” section should be deleted, with the exception of the reference to the Canberra Group’s website, which should be retained (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).
29. **PE 4.7b, Social security statistics:** The text in the bullet under the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be shortened, and the acronyms that are used in the bullet (e.g. SOCX and ESSPROS) should be used in full (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
30. **PE 4.8, Crime and criminal justice statistics:** The text shown for Eurostat in the “Activities and means” section should be deleted (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
31. **PE 4.9, Health statistics:** The information presented in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be shortened and streamlined (e.g., by deleting the second and fourth bullets, and by editing and merging the information presented in the last two bullets (**action by the ECE secretariat**)). In addition, the material shown for Eurostat in the “Activities and means” section should be converted into the same format as that used in other PEs (**action by the ECE secretariat**).
32. **PE 4.11a, Social indicators and frameworks:** The information presented in the form of bullets in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be strengthened, or deleted. In addition, the ECE secretariat should liaise with contacts in the Siena Group to obtain input from it for the “Activities and means” section (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).
33. **PE 4.11b, Multi-purpose social surveys:** The text outlining the medium-term goals for this work area should be amended to include references to integrating data from different sources. The information presented in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended to refer to the Bureau (as opposed to the Rapporteur), and to make clear that the references to “Member States” refers to EU Member States. And a bullet should be added to the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section to refer to the increasing concerns NSIs have about confidentiality of data drawn from panel surveys and other sources (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).
34. **PE 4.11c, Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics:** The second paragraph in the “Strategic medium-term goals” section should be moved to be included with the text shown for Eurostat in the “Activities and means” section. The information presented in the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section should be amended by deleting the second sentence, and by referring in the first sentence to the Bureau (instead of to the Rapporteur). And an additional bullet should be added to the “Attention of the Conference is called to” section to refer to the increasing concerns NSIs have about confidentiality of data drawn from administrative records and registers (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

e) **Programme activity 5: Environment statistics**

35. A general introductory note should be added to the initial part of PA 5, pointing out that the headings

within the PEs have been changed to refer to the headings that are used in the other PAs of the IP, but that the content of the text under the headings has not yet been altered. The content of the text under the headings in PA 5 will be aligned in the autumn of 2001, when the Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of PAs 3, 5 and 6 (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

36. **PE 5.1, Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications, and environmental databases:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the major problem in data collection in this field, that is flagged in Eurostat's contribution to the Integrated Presentation. Attention should also be called to problems being encountered with the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, attention should also be called to the very useful Environmental Performance Reviews that both ECE and OECD are producing for different countries, and to how well the work is coordinated between ECE (Environment and Human settlements Division) and OECD in this field. (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

37. **PE 5.2, Environmental accounting:** Attention of the Conference should be drawn to the work being undertaken on the revision of the SEEA manual (**action by the ECE secretariat, drawing on the text on the SEEA given in the "Activities and means" section**). The inadvertently omitted text describing Eurostat's work in PEs 5.1 and 5.2 should be included (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

**f) Programme activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities**

38. A general introductory note should be added to the initial part of PA 6, pointing out that the headings within the PEs have been changed to refer to the headings that are used in the other PAs of the IP, but that the content of the text under the headings has not yet been altered. The content of the text under the headings in PA 5 will be aligned in the autumn of 2001, when the Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of PAs 3, 5 and 6 (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

39. **P.E. 6.1, Coordination of international data collection:** Attention of the Conference should be called to the growing tendency to use the internet for the collection of statistics, and to the problems of coordination that were flagged in PE 1.1 (**actions by the ECE secretariat**).

**g) General comment covering PAs 1-6**

40. The Bureau also agreed that there should also be a discussion at the plenary session on how the Conference should deal with the IP at future plenary sessions, and on how national and international statistical offices could be more pro-active in their external environment instead of being merely reactive. The Bureau agreed that this discussion should replace the time that the CES spent at past plenary sessions in reviewing the 40 or so programme elements, and that it would be useful to have the discussion triggered by a short address or Conference Room Paper that the Bureau asked Len Cook to prepare (**Action by Len Cook and the ECE secretariat**).

**III. POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONTENT AND FORMAT OF THE INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

41. There was general agreement that the Integrated Presentation in its present form is both too large and too detailed to enable it to be used effectively as a management tool, and that it is not detailed enough to enable specialists to use it as an operational tool. There was also general agreement that it would be useful

to streamline the set of documents that comprise the IP. In this connection, one possible way of streamlining it that was mentioned was to have the secretariat put together in a single document for distribution at the plenary session all the text in the "Attention of the Conference is called to" section, (and possibly as well as the texts that appear under the heading "Decisions recommended by the CES Bureau to the 2001 plenary session" (**action by the ECE secretariat**)).

42. The Bureau agreed that it would be useful to get feedback from country Bureau members on the extent to which the Integrated Presentation is used in their country. To facilitate that, the secretariat offered to send a short informal questionnaire to country Bureau members shortly after the Bureau meeting (**action by the ECE secretariat**).

43. The Bureau also discussed the possibility of converting the Integrated Presentation into a database. The Bureau agreed that although this seemed like an attractive idea in theory, in reality it would be very costly to develop and to maintain. Nevertheless, there was general agreement that there was a need for a more stream-lined document that was forward-looking, strategic in character and even provocative in nature. It agreed that the IP in its present form might have served its purpose, and that the Conference should now move on to a different format. It asked the ECE secretariat, OECD and Eurostat to come up with a short issues paper containing a proposed modified version, which could be submitted in the form of an untranslated Conference Room Paper to the 2001 CES plenary session for feedback (**action by the ECE secretariat, Eurostat and OECD, prior to the 2001 CES plenary session**).

44. The Bureau also agreed that during the summer of 2001 the ECE secretariat should canvass NSIs to determine the views that countries have of the IP, and how it might be improved. The Bureau asked the secretariat to include a bullet in both the "Attention of the Conference is called to" section and in the "Activities and means" section of PE 1.1, so that the Conference will be aware of this planned activity (**action by the ECE secretariat prior to the 2001 plenary session and during the summer of 2001**).

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2000/2001 WORK PROGRAMME**

45. The Bureau noted that all the activities included in the Conference's work programme for the initial part of 2000/2001 have been carried out as planned. The Bureau also noted that at its next meeting (which is to be held in Geneva immediately before the opening of the plenary session) it will be informed of the extent to which the planned work programme for the last part of 2000/2001 has been carried out.

#### **V. OUTCOME OF THE JANUARY 2001 JPR MEETING**

46. There was nothing to report under this agenda item, as Eurostat, the OECD and ECE did not feel a necessity to convene a Joint Programme Review meeting this year.

#### **VI. SUPPORT THAT THE ECE STATISTICAL DIVISION PROVIDES TO THE ECE'S ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION AND OTHER DIVISIONS**

47. Under this agenda item Paolo Garonna informed the Bureau that the Economic Commission for Europe is increasingly calling upon the secretariat and the Commission's PSBs to engage in cross-sectoral activities and work that is more directly related to policies. He indicated that he anticipated that in the future the Conference would also be called upon increasingly to move in this direction, and

he indicated that for that to happen, because of the limited resource base that is available in the Statistical Division to support the Conference's work plan, some of the activities the Conference is currently working on its work programme may have to be dropped or curtailed to free up resources that could be used on work related to the follow-up to various global conferences. He indicated, however, that before taking steps in that direction both the Bureau and the Conference would be consulted **(action by the Paolo Garonna if and when necessary)**.

48. The Bureau noted that NSIs are considering a proposal put forward by the IMF at the November 2000 Work Session on Statistical Metadata that DSBB play the role of reference anchor for statistical metadata and that a common XML-based language for statistical metadata and data be developed. The Bureau asked Carol Carson if the IMF could prepare a short Conference Room Document for the 2001 plenary session (to be available in English only) on this **(action by Carol Carson and by the ECE secretariat for the 2001 plenary session)**.

49. Paolo Garonna also informed the Bureau under this item of the fact that at the forthcoming session of the Economic Commission for Europe the ECE Statistical Division planned to demonstrate to Commission attendees the features of the database that the Division is developing to support the analytical capacity of the ECE's Economic Analysis Division.

## **VII. PLANS FOR THE 50<sup>TH</sup> PLENARY (ANNIVERSARY) SESSION OF THE CES**

50. The Bureau discussed under this agenda item different possibilities of ways in which the 2002 fiftieth anniversary CES plenary session could be held. The Bureau noted in this connection the arrangements that have been in place since 1994, when the Conference began holding its annual session every alternate year at the OECD in Paris at the invitation of the OECD. The Bureau welcomed the invitation of the OECD to have the Conference hold its 2002 fiftieth anniversary session at the OECD in Paris. The following were some of the ideas that the Bureau discussed for organizing the session: organizing the session with some of the time looking back on accomplishments that the Conference has made during its history and some of the time on future challenges that are facing the Conference; sessions dealing with selected priority themes such as norms and standards, the Fundamental Principles and best practices (or on other non-technical topics that focus on structural changes and/or strategic visions); and arranging to have a dinner with a special keynote speaker on an evening during the plenary session. There was general agreement that the 2002 plenary session could be structured by having one full day devoted to a celebration discussions on priority themes, one full day devoted to a special seminar topic, and the remaining half-day to be devoted to other topics such as the Integrated Presentation that routinely appear on the agenda of plenary sessions. The Bureau also agreed that Svein Longva and Paolo Garonna should prepare a paper for the plenary session, containing their proposals for how the 2002 plenary session could be organized **(action by Svein Longva and Paolo Garonna prior to the end-of-March 2001 translation deadline, based on proposals and ideas put forward by Bureau members and the ECE, Eurostat and OECD secretariats)**.

51. A suggestion was also made to organize a special Appeal for Funds in an attempt to raise funds which could be used for arranging consultancies, prominent guest speakers, etc. who could help facilitate planning the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary session.

## **VIII. RECOMMENDED TOPIC FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT THE 2002 CES PLENARY SESSION**

52. The Bureau did not recommend a specific subject for substantive discussion at the 2002 plenary session, but left it to Svein Longva and Paolo Garonna to propose the recommended subject of

the seminar session in the paper that the Bureau asked them to prepare for the 2001 plenary session on the planned structure and content of the 2002 plenary session (**action by Svein Longva and Paolo Garonna, as input to the paper the Bureau asked them to prepare for the 2001 plenary session** (see para. 50 above)).

#### **IX. EVALUATION OF THE FIRST ROUND OF THE PAU'S FFS PROJECT**

53. Miroslav Macura informed the Bureau under this agenda item of the formal evaluation that the PAU had commissioned of the first round of the FFS surveys and of the various informal evaluations, of the first round of surveys that have been conducted to date. The Bureau noted that evaluations had generally been quite favourable, and that the first phase of the project could generally be considered as a success, with favourable and positive outcomes having been obtained in it thus far. He also informed the Bureau of the difficulties that have been experienced thus far in obtaining the required funding from some potential major donors for the proposed new phase of the project.

54. Miroslav Macura also informed the Bureau under this agenda item of the preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing which will be held in Madrid in April 2002, and of the preparations for the ECE Ministerial Meeting on Ageing that will be held in Berlin in September 2002 to consider and adopt a regional implementation strategy for the revised International Plan of Action that is expected to be drawn up at the Madrid meeting.

#### **X. MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR LEVY, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ECE**

55. At the invitation of the Bureau, Ambassador Levy, Vice-Chairman of the Economic Commission for Europe, participated in the Bureau meeting, so as to better acquaint himself with the Bureau of the Conference and how it functions as a "Steering Body" for the Conference. Susan Bartolo and Patrice Robineau of the Office of the Executive Secretary also attended the Bureau meeting for discussion under this agenda item.

#### **XI. STATISTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES**

56. The Bureau was informed under this agenda item of a new project that the European Commission is about to launch on socio-economic aspects of manufacturing technologies, which it has invited the ECE to participate with it in. The Bureau noted that both Eurostat and OECD are also interested in participating in this planned project. The Bureau asked the ECE secretariat to follow developments with the planning of the proposed new project, so that it can make an updated briefing to the Bureau at the Bureau's autumn 2001 meeting (**updated briefing report to be produced by the ECE secretariat for the Bureau's autumn 2001 meeting**).

#### **XII. PLANS FOR THE SEMINAR SESSION AT THE 2001 PLENARY SESSION**

57. Under this agenda item Carmen Arribas updated the Bureau on how INE planned to structure and organize the seminar session at the 2001 plenary session. The Bureau generally agreed with the overall thrust of the plans for the seminar session, but recommended that there should generally be roughly an even distribution of time available during the session for introduction of papers and general discussion from the floor. The Bureau also suggested that INE make provisions in its planned timetable for the seminar session to allow a brief period of time towards the end of the session for authors of the Invited Papers to comment on some of the major points that came up during the general discussion.

### **XIII. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

58. The Bureau agreed that the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations in November 2000 was an important development that opened up the possibility for Yugoslavia to participate in the CES plenary session and in meetings convened by the Conference. The Bureau considered that under these circumstances it would be a welcome development if Paolo Garonna were to ask the Federal statistical Office to prepare a short paper which could be distributed at the 2001 plenary session as a Conference Room Document (in English only). The Bureau agreed that the timetable for the plenary session was too tight to permit the paper to constitute a separate agenda item, but that the paper could nevertheless be made available for distribution in the Salle during the meeting (**action by Paolo Garonna in liaising with the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia about the possibility of it preparing the Conference Room Paper**).

### **XIV. SCHEDULING OF THE CES PLENARY SESSIONS AND DGINS MEETINGS**

59. The Bureau agreed that the short time period in the early summer between the dates of the CES plenary session of the Conference and Eurostat's DGINS meeting constituted an important scheduling problem for the heads of NSIs in an increasing number of countries in the region. The Bureau called upon Yves Franchet and Paolo Garonna to examine this problem in co-operation with Svein Longva, with a view of attempting to resolve it prior to the time of the Conference's 2002 anniversary session (**action by Yves Franchet and Paolo Garonna, in consultation with Svein Longva**).

### **XV. DRAFT AGENDA AND TIMETABLE OF THE 2001 PLENARY SESSION**

60. The Bureau was generally in agreement with the proposed agenda and timetable of the 2001 plenary session that was outlined in CES/BUR.2001/22, with the following two exceptions. First, it considered that the item concerning the Integrated Presentation should be re-structured by having only three Programme Elements reviewed in depth instead of four (it agreed that the last of the four PEs relating to demographic statistics and to population and housing censuses should be dropped). It also agreed that the planned short item referring to the "remaining 40 or so Programme Elements should also be dropped from the agenda and be replaced by a written procedure to be presented to the plenary session, as agreed by the Bureau at its October 2000 meeting (**Action by the ECE secretariat**). It also agreed that in place of these two deletions, a new item relating to the future of the Integrated Presentation and to the direction of future statistical activities to be engaged in by the Conference should be added as a new sub-item of the agenda item relating to the Integrated Presentation. The Bureau agreed that discussion on this new sub-item should be triggered by the short address or Conference Room Paper on the Integrated Presentation that the Bureau asked Len Cook to prepare (see paras. 13 and 40 above) (**Action by Len Cook**). The second exception was that the secretariat should add a second additional new agenda item to enable the Conference to be informed of the outcome of the Conference on Statistics, Development and Human rights that the Swiss Federal statistical Office organized in Montreux, Switzerland in September 2000. The Bureau asked Paolo Garonna to liaise with Carlo Malaguerra and to ask him to prepare a paper for the plenary session to provide the basis for the Conference's consideration of this topic (**Action by Paolo Garonna**).

### **XVI. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT BUREAU MEETING**

61. The Bureau agreed to have a luncheon meeting in Geneva at 12:30 on 11 June, immediately prior to the opening of the 2001 plenary session.

**Note:** A Subscription Dinner for the Bureau was organised on 31 January, to which Paolo Garonna had invited Ms. Christine PINTAT, Assistant Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, so that she could informally inform the Bureau of the interest that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has in statistics. Bureau members found Ms Pintat's presentation very interesting, and thanked her for it.

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