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Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda

**COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE REGION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.  
STATISTICS ON INCOME, LIVING CONDITIONS AND POVERTY**

EXTRACT FROM THE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES  
(DISA)

Note by the secretariat

**2008 - INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN STATISTICS ON INCOME, LIVING  
CONDITIONS AND POVERTY**

1.5.	Title	<b>Income and consumption (edition 2008)</b>
1.5:	Eurostat	<p><b><u>Theme 1.08 Consumer protection</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Description</b> In recent years, following the high priority given to consumer protection policy, Eurostat has made efforts to regularly produce a Panorama publication ‘Consumers in Europe: facts and figures’ (published in 2002, 2005 and 2007). In addition, DG SANCO has received support on statistical methodology for fields both covered and not covered by Eurostat, for example on services of general interest, the safety of products and services, energy, and consumer satisfaction. For demands concerning detailed price statistics, an inter-service Task Force has been created and has started its work.</p> <p><b>2. Work Programme for 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.1 KEY PRIORITIES 2008</b> In 2008, priority will be given to the preparation of the fourth issue of the Panorama in the EU series ‘Consumers in Europe: facts and figures’, including data from the 2005 HBS surveys. For soft statistics developed by public/private bodies (other than the European Statistical System), methodological assistance will be given. For official statistics (e.g. detailed prices, cross-border consumption expenditure, business-to-consumer activities), an action plan will be developed, incorporating the conclusions of the inter-service Task Force on detailed prices. Finally, initial ideas will be developed for a module on consumer protection issues to be included in the new EHS project.</p> <p><b>2.2 OBJECTIVES 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.2.1. Ongoing work</b></p> <p>Preparation of the fourth edition of the Panorama publication ‘Consumers in Europe: facts and figures’ including the new HBS data (2005 round)</p> <p>Methodological support in statistical matters relating to the consumer protection strategy for soft statistics developed by public/private bodies (other than the European Statistical System)</p> <p><b>2.2.2. New work</b></p> <p>Development of an action plan for hard official statistics (including detailed prices; cross-border consumption expenditure; business-to-consumer activities), incorporating the conclusions of the inter-service Task Force on detailed prices</p> <p>Design of a module on consumer protection issues to be included in the new EHS project</p>

		<p><b><u>Theme 1.09 Food safety</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Description</b> Work on food safety statistics will continue in order to obtain statistical indicators for monitoring food safety within the EU. Cooperation will be continued with DG AGRI, reinforced with DG SANCO and developed with other Commission services, where relevant, such as DG FISH, DG ENV and DG TRADE, and with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).</p> <p><b>2. Work Programme for 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.1 KEY PRIORITIES 2008</b> Work will focus on the areas already started in previous years in line with the priorities identified by the Working Group on Food Safety Statistics. More precisely, work will continue on the further development of the database on control and monitoring activities, in particular the harmonisation of the agreed indicators through the development of harmonised data dictionaries and definitions. The possibilities of collecting data for a limited set of food consumption indicators to respond to policy needs will continue to be analysed, including the possibility of launching a pilot data collection. The quality and availability of data on products from organic farming will be improved and ways of collecting statistics on GM products will continue to be explored. The database created in 2004 to hold all the data already available to Eurostat concerning food safety issues will be permanently updated and enriched with data on the production of food products with distinctive marks and on control and monitoring activities. Cooperation with ECDC and EFSA will continue in order to analyse the possibility of constructing relevant indicators on the impact of food safety on human health.</p> <p><b>2.2 OBJECTIVES 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.2.1. Ongoing work</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Update twice a year the FOOD domain in NewCronos containing data relevant to food safety</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Update once a year the database on control and monitoring activities</p> <p><b>2.2.2. New work</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">By the end of 2008, publish at least two of the relevant food safety indicators agreed at the end of 2006 by the Working Group on Food Safety Statistics</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">By the end of 2008, define the common framework for collecting data and establish a pilot database on food consumption indicators</p>
1.5:	ILO	<p><b><u>Household Income and Expenditure</u></b></p> <p><b>New activities:</b> Work is planned on the preparation of a technical guide on household income</p>

		<p>and expenditure statistics, in collaboration with various international organizations.</p> <p><b>Data collection:</b></p> <p>Statistics and metadata on household income and expenditure are available on <a href="http://laborsta.ilo.org">http://laborsta.ilo.org</a>.</p>
1.5:	World Bank	<p><b><u>Household Income and Expenditure Database on Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional Economies</u></b> developed as part of a project analyzing poverty and social assistance in the transition economies. The data addresses critical questions, such as the group most likely to be poor, how well social assistance programs reach the most needy, and the kinds of programs that would most effectively reduce poverty (<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/research/inequality/data.htm">http://www.worldbank.org/research/inequality/data.htm</a>).</p>
1.5:	CIS-STAT	<p><b><u>Household Income and Expenditure Ongoing work:</u></b></p> <p>Collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of quarterly and annual data provided by national statistical services on the structure of household money income and consumer expenditure, the minimum consumer budget (minimum subsistence level) for countries where this indicator is used to measure living standards of population, and breakdown of population by size of average per capita income (expenditure) (2008). Preparation of reports on welfare standards and nutrition of population in Commonwealth countries.</p> <p>It is envisaged to provide advisory services to national statistical services on the organisation of household income and expenditure statistics and population welfare statistics in Commonwealth countries.</p> <p>Collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data on money income and expenditure of the population in the period 2008-2009 – quarterly and annually.</p> <p><b>New activities:</b></p> <p>In 2008 it is envisaged to consolidate the practice of estimating poverty in Commonwealth countries.</p>
1.5:	FAO	<p><b><u>Food Consumption and Security Statistics Derived from Household Surveys</u></b></p> <p><b>Ongoing methodological work:</b></p> <p>Methodological work is focused on the estimation of food deprivation new FAO methodology to assess undernourishment. This methodology will be shared with national statistical organizations to estimate food deprivation as defined by the Millennium Development Goals indicator number five (MDG5) at national and sub-national levels for targeting food insecure population groups.</p>

		<p>Technical assistance is being provided through FAO's capacity building activities projects.</p> <p><b>Priority objectives:</b></p> <p>Priority has been given to the preparation of new methodological materials for implementing data processing and statistical analysis modules using computing statistical packages</p> <p>Updated information on the web page on capacity building activities on food consumption and security statistics: <a href="http://www.fao.org/statistics">http://www.fao.org/statistics</a></p>
1.5:	See also:	<p>ILO: Wage statistics in 2.8</p> <p>Eurostat: Distribution of incomes and living conditions in 3.3.1</p> <p>UNSD: Poverty statistics in 3.3.1</p> <p>World Bank: Poverty statistics in 3.3.1</p> <p>OECD: Benefits and wages in 2.5</p> <p>OECD: Income distribution and poverty in 3.3.1</p> <p>CIS-STAT: Labour costs, wages and salaries in 2.8</p>
3.3.1.	Title	<b>Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues (edition 2008)</b>
3.3.1.	Eurostat	<p><b><u>Theme 1.06 Distribution of incomes and living conditions</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Description</b></p> <p>Statistics on the distribution of income and on living conditions are based on two data sources, the household budget surveys (HBS) and the EU survey on income and living conditions (SILC).</p> <p>EU-SILC, the new reference data source for EU statistics on income and social exclusion in all EU countries and in Norway and Iceland, will be used to calculate the different sets of indicators (structural, Laeken and pensions) used in the report to the Spring Council and for the streamlined Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social inclusion and on pensions.</p> <p>In the medium term, the focus will be on extending geographical coverage by including new Member States.</p> <p><b>2.1 KEY PRIORITIES 2008</b></p> <p>In 2008, the 2005 data from the household budget surveys for all Member States will be disseminated.</p> <p>The EU-SILC data collection will be undertaken in 32 countries and the cross-sectional data from the 2007 round will be made available. For the first time, the income concept will include non-monetary components, providing more comparable information. The longitudinal SILC micro-data will be available for 25 Member States plus Norway and Iceland for research purposes. A Commission regulation on the 2010 list of target secondary variables will be prepared and adopted. An EU quality report covering both cross-sectional and longitudinal components will be produced.</p> <p>Priority will be given to improving the comparability and development of statistical analysis.</p>

		<p><b>2.2 OBJECTIVES 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.2.1. Ongoing work</b></p> <p>Disseminate the Household Budget Survey data from the 2005 round</p> <p>Disseminate the 2007 SILC cross-sectional data on Eurostat's free site by end December 2008</p> <p>Disseminate the cross-sectional (2006) and longitudinal (2004, 2005 and 2006) user databases to researchers in March and August 2008, respectively</p> <p>Ensure the adoption of the Commission regulation on the SILC 2010 list of target secondary variables</p> <p>Produce an EU quality report covering both cross-sectional and longitudinal components</p> <p>Produce the relevant indicators for the Spring Report 2009, the Joint Report on Social Inclusion and Social Protection 2009</p> <p>Publish four Statistics in Focus using HBS and SILC data on income, social inclusion, expenditure and living conditions</p> <p><b>2.2.2. New work</b></p> <p>Improve comparability of SILC information together with a network of producers and users (based on detailed analysis of the data and on evaluation of national questionnaires)</p> <p>Develop statistical analysis based on SILC micro-data (together with a network of users)</p>
3.3.1:	Eurostat	<p><b><u>Theme 1.12 Other work in the field of demographic and social statistics</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Description</b></p> <p>This theme includes four distinct cross-cutting fields of social statistics: social reporting, gender statistics, youth statistics and the new European System of Social Statistical Survey Modules (EHS).</p> <p>In the field of social reporting, Eurostat is and will remain together with DG EMPL an active co-author of the report 'The social situation in the European Union'. In addition to a holistic view, this report has a special focus that changes from one edition to another. Eurostat also produces the statistical pocketbook 'Living conditions in Europe'.</p> <p><b>2. Work Programme for 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.1 KEY PRIORITIES 2008</b></p> <p>For the module 'Social reporting' the main priority is the production of the 2008 edition of the report 'The social situation in the European Union' together with DG EMPL. In addition, a new edition of the pocketbook 'Living conditions in Europe' is being produced. Care will be taken to ensure that the social indicators presented in these publications are fully consistent with the</p>

		<p>structural indicators and the indicators developed by the indicator subgroups of the employment and social protection committees.</p> <p><b>2.2 OBJECTIVES 2008</b></p> <p><b>2.2.1. Ongoing work</b></p> <p>Finalisation of the 2008 edition of the report 'The social situation in the European Union' by the end of 2008</p> <p>Production of the manuscript of the pocketbook 'Living conditions in Europe' by the end of April 2008</p> <p><b>2.2.2. New work</b></p> <p>Analysis of sources for data and indicators on the care of dependent adults</p>
3.3.1:	OECD	<p><b><u>Income distribution and poverty</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> Analysis of main trends in the distribution of incomes, from 1980s to mid 2000s, based from the OECD Income Distribution Questionnaire (every 5 years).</p> <p><b>Objectives and outputs</b> Two papers were discussed at the Working party on Social Policy - Report on the distribution of resources in OECD countries: Stylised facts (DELSA/ELSA/WP1(2007)15, and Child poverty in OECD countries: trends, causes and policy responses. A report will be published in Spring 2007 consist of chapters between 15 and 20 pages each covering various dimensions of "resource distribution". The chapters will be analytic, aiming to disseminate findings from the rich OECD database to policy analysts and researchers. A final chapter will discuss policy implications.</p> <p><b>Databases</b> OECD Income Distribution questionnaire</p>
3.3.1:	OECD	<p><b><u>Family Outcomes and Policies</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> To include cross-national information on family outcomes and policies as categorised under 4 broad headings: the structure of families, families and children, the labour market position of families, public policies for families and children, and child outcomes.</p> <p><b>Objectives and outputs</b> Following up on the OECD Babies and Bosses reviews on the reconciliation of work and family life in selected Member States, and in view of the strong demand for cross-national indicators on the situation of families and children, the OECD has developed an on-line database on family outcomes and family policies with indicators for all OECD countries. The database brings together information from different OECD databases (for example, the OECD Social Expenditure database, the OECD Benefits and Wages database, or the OECD</p>

		<p>Education database, and databases maintained by other (international) organisations. Development of the database is an ongoing process. The first batch of indicators on policies and outcomes has been released.</p> <p><b>Databases</b> OECD Family Database</p> <p><b>Main Developments for 2008</b></p> <p><b>General aspects:</b> The first batch of indicators was released by the end of 2006, new indicators from existing OECD databases have been released throughout 2007, these existing indicators will be updated on a regular basis. In 2008, new indicators will be developed concerning child health, time use, different types of families, labour market position of families and out of school hours care.</p> <p><b>Data management:</b> Published for the first time via <a href="http://www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database">www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database</a></p>
3.3.1:	OECD	<p><b><u>Social Indicators</u></b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b> Social indicators have been developed to provide the broad perspective needed for any international comparison and assessment of social trends, outcomes and policies. By linking social status and social response indicators across a broad range of policy areas, social indicators help to identify whether and how the broad thrust of social policies and societal actions are addressing key social policy issues.</p> <p><b>Objectives and outputs</b> The fourth edition of "Society at a Glance", the OECD report of social indicators, was released early 2007. The report has established the key role of the OECD in the field of social reporting and statistics. The discussion by delegates of the Working Party on Social Policies in November 2006 has confirmed the importance they attach to this activity, and identified concrete steps (e.g. the establishment of a steering group of country representatives) to make the report more relevant in the future.</p> <p><b>Databases</b> Social indicators</p> <p><b>Main Developments for 2008</b></p> <p><b>General aspects:</b> The fifth edition of "Society at a Glance" is planned for December 2008. This will update some of the indicators included in the first four editions, and adds new ones including measures of mental health. This report will also include a special chapter on patterns of time-use in OECD countries.</p> <p><b>Data collection:</b> Data update every other year. Data update in 2008, publication to come out in December 2008.</p>

3.3.1:	World Bank	<p><b><u>Poverty Statistics</u></b></p> <p>The World Bank will continue its theoretical and practical work in the area of measuring and analysing income poverty, as well as efforts in developing tools to measure the many other dimensions of poverty. In the past few years the WB prepared a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) Source Book, which is designed as a handbook for the 42 PRSP countries (9 of them are in the ECE region) in developing their strategy for poverty alleviation. A considerable part of the book is focused on the issues of data on poverty, poverty measurement, and poverty monitoring.</p> <p>The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development. They include:</p> <p><b>Poverty Monitoring Database</b> provides quick access to comprehensive poverty information. Its main components are:</p> <p>(i) Information on household surveys: key features and general information on income/consumption surveys conducted recently. The information sheets indicate whether household survey data are available to the general public. Links to the data set are provided when they are available on the web;</p> <p>(ii) Poverty Assessment Summaries conducted by the World Bank since 1993;</p> <p>(iii) Participatory Poverty Assessments, which provide basic information on assessments conducted by the Bank and other institutions (<a href="http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/dg/povertys.nsf">http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/dg/povertys.nsf</a>)</p> <p><b>PovcalNet</b> is an interactive computational tool that allows users to replicate the calculations made by the World Bank's researchers in estimating the extent of absolute poverty in the world. <b>PovcalNet</b> also allows one to calculate the poverty measures under different assumptions and to assemble the estimates using alternative country groupings or for any set of individual countries of their choosing. (<a href="http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/jsp/index.jsp">http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/jsp/index.jsp</a> /).</p> <p>Training of statisticians and policy makers on how to use household survey data for analysis and policy is and will continue to be provided by the World Bank Institute on a regional basis. Country specific training on analysis is carried out under several LSMS projects and under Poverty Assessments.</p> <p>The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty Monitoring Database <a href="http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/dg/povertys.nsf">http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/dg/povertys.nsf</a></li> <li>- Living Standards Measurement Study Survey Database <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/">http://www.worldbank.org/lsms/</a></li> <li>- Database on Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional</li> </ul>
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3.3.1:	UN Statistics Division	<p><b><u>Poverty Statistics</u></b></p> <p>The UNSD has completed the preparation of a handbook of poverty statistics. The pre-edited manuscript is available on the UNSD website (<a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty</a>). The handbook presents current good practices in poverty measurement and is based on information collected worldwide from regional workshops and a detailed country survey. A report on poverty profiles in ECOWAS countries is finalised and has recently been published, with the collaboration of the ECOWAS Secretariat.</p> <p>In 2007 UNSD started reviewing methodologies used by countries in poverty mapping highlighting good practices.</p> <p><b><u>Social Indicators</u></b></p> <p>UNSD maintains a website of Social Indicators which is updated quarterly: See also: <a href="http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty/default.htm">http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/poverty/default.htm</a></p>
3.3.1:	See also:	<p>World Bank: Household Income and Expenditure in 1.5 World Bank: Bridging ICP and Household Budget Survey Data to Calculate PPP for the Poor in 2.7 UNICEF: Data for understanding the situation of children in CEE/CIS region in 3.3.2 World Bank: Living Standards Measurement Survey in 4.3.3 World Bank: Data quality assessment framework in 5.3 OECD: Benefits and wages in 2.5</p>

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