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Geneva, 8-10 June 2009
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

**FREQUENCY OF CES BUREAU MEETINGS: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF
POINTS 12(A), (B) AND (C) FROM THE RULES GOVERNING THE WORK OF THE
CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU**

Note by the secretariat

1. The organization of the Bureau meetings is stipulated by the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and the Bureau* (ECE/CES/2007/8) approved by the CES in 2007.
2. Paragraph 12, points (a), (b) and (c) of the *Rules* read as follows:

“12. Functioning of the Bureau

 - (a) Meetings of the Bureau will normally be held in February and October of each year. The subjects of discussion, as well as the need for the availability of all secretariat experts for the February meeting, suggest that the meeting should be held in Geneva.
 - (b) Additional Bureau meetings may be convened in conjunction with the annual plenary session.
 - (c) Further meetings of the Bureau could be determined by the Bureau members or the Chairman of the Conference as the need arises.”

3. The CES Bureau has discussed at the last two meetings (in October 2008 and February 2009) the organization and frequency of its meetings.
4. In an effort to better use the resources and economise on travel costs, the Bureau decided to experiment with a different length and timing of the Bureau meetings, as follows:
 - (a) Suspend the regular two-days meeting in February and hold a one-day meeting back-to-back with the CES plenary session in June instead;
 - (b) Keep the two-days meeting in autumn (October-November);
 - (c) If necessary, hold a short meeting during the UN Statistical Commission session in February/March in New York.
5. The Bureau agreed to test the new approach starting from October 2009 for the following two years. In October 2011, the Bureau will evaluate the outcome of the experiment and whether it will be possible to reorganise the work of the CES Bureau without a negative effect on its quality.
6. Since the *Rules governing the work of the Bureau and the Conference* are approved by the CES plenary session, any amendment of these Rules needs the endorsement of the Conference.
7. **The Conference is invited to comment and agree on the following text to be included in the Report of the 2009 plenary session of the CES:**
 - “(a) The Conference decided to suspend temporarily points 12 (a), (b) and (c) of the *Rules governing the work of the Conference and the Bureau* (ECE/CES/2007/8);
 - (b) From October 2009 until October 2011, the CES Bureau meetings will take place with the following timing:
 - A two-day meeting in autumn (preferably October-November);
 - A one-day meeting back-to-back with the CES plenary session in June; and
 - A short meeting during the UN Statistical Commission session in February/March in New York if necessary.
 - (c) In October 2011, the Bureau will evaluate the new frequency and timing of the CES Bureau meetings and will decide whether to propose to the Conference to change the *Rules* in this respect.”
8. If the Conference decides to change the *Rules*, the document will also have to be submitted for formal approval to the UNECE Executive Committee.

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