

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Third Meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20-21 February 2006

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

The Bureau meeting will take place in room F-3 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will start at 9:30 on Monday, 20 February 2006. Participants should allow for about 30 minutes before the meeting in order to obtain their entry passes from the Security Office in Villa les Feuillantines, which is located just across the road from the Main Gate at Place des Nations. It is expected that the meeting will end around lunchtime on Tuesday, 21 February.

The documents for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail as soon as they become available.

**1. In-depth review of selected statistical areas**

The in-depth review of selected statistical areas is customary for the February meetings of the Bureau. At its October 2005 meeting, the Bureau selected the areas for in-depth review and designated the Rapporteurs for preparing the reports as follows:

- (a) Quality frameworks and the link with institutional frameworks and principles (report by Statistics Sweden with assistance from Eurostat, and contribution by IMF) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/2**;
- (b) Statistics on Globalization (report by Statistics Canada and ONS, UK) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/3**;
- (c) Justice and crime statistics, including the safety concept (report by Italy and Statistics Netherlands) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/4**;
- (d) Health statistics (report by OECD and USA) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/5**;

The Bureau is also expected to select one of the reviewed topics for in-depth review at the 2006 plenary session of the Conference.

**2. Technical cooperation (Note by UNECE secretariat), ECE/CES/BUR/2006/6**

The Bureau discussed the improvement of coordination of technical cooperation in the UNECE region in October 2005 based on a paper prepared jointly by UNECE and Eurostat. A revised document is prepared reflecting the discussion. The Bureau is expected to approve the strategy for coordination of technical assistance in the UNECE region.

**3. Meeting with Mr. Belka, the new Executive Secretary of the Economic**

### **Commission for Europe and Ambassador Roux (Belgium), Chairman of the ECE**

Mr. Belka has been appointed as Executive Secretary of the UNECE. He will assume his duties at the beginning of February 2006.

A team of external evaluators carried out a review of the role, mandate and functions of the UNECE during the first half of 2005. The comprehensive report produced in June 2005 included recommendations for the reform. The Work plan to implement the reform was adopted by the UNECE on 2 December 2005.

#### **4. Review of the issues and problems in international statistical work in the UNECE region, ECE/CES/BUR/2006/7**

At its February meeting, in addition to the in-depth review of selected statistical areas, the Bureau makes a general review of the international statistical work undertaken in other areas. In the past, this review was made on the basis of the Integrated Presentation, in particular the sections on "Issues and Problems" and "Attention of the Conference is drawn to". In February 2005, the Bureau adopted a new procedure for reviewing the international statistical work in the UNECE region according to which the UNECE secretariat was asked to prepare a paper on Issues and Problems. The paper will cover those statistical areas from the DISA/IP for which the required expertise is available in the UNECE secretariat. For the remaining areas, UNECE will seek advice and contributions from the Bureau members.

The Bureau will be asked to:

- (i) comment briefly and make proposals for amendments/changes to the text on 'Issues and Problems' prepared by the UNECE secretariat;
- (ii) recommend experts to be consulted in the areas where the UNECE does not have expertise; and
- (iii) identify the most significant issues that should be brought to the attention of the Conference.

Following the Bureau discussions, the UNECE secretariat will prepare a revised version of the paper for submission to the CES plenary session in June 2006.

#### **5. Preparations for the 2006 plenary session and the two seminars**

- (a) Preparation of the formal session on the first day: selection of the topic for in-depth discussion based on the Rapporteurs' reports.
- (b) Draft agenda and timetable for the 2006 plenary session (Note by UNECE secretariat) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/8**.
- (c) Organization of the first seminar session – Population censuses (Note by the Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/9**.
- (d) Organization of the second seminar – Human Resources and Training (Note by the Czech Statistical Office) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/10**.

The Bureau is invited to comment on the organization of the three sessions: a formal session and the two seminar sessions.

**6. Confidentiality and Microdata** (report by Dennis Trewin)  
**ECE//CES/BUR/2006/11**

In October 2005, the Bureau reviewed an updated version of the Guidelines for Managing Confidentiality and Microdata Access and made some recommendations. Dennis Trewin, the Chairman of the Task Force, will present the progress report on the work via a teleconference.

The Bureau may wish to comment on the chapter dealing with international access that has been redrafted. The Bureau is expected to recommend that the CES approve the Guidelines at the June 2006 meeting.

**7. Environment Statistics** (Paper by Eurostat) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/12**

In the past, the Bureau has repeatedly noted the need for better coordination of the methodological work and data collection in the area of environment statistics. However, it still remains an open issue and there has been no significant progress in resolving the problems. Eurostat volunteered to coordinate with ISWGES the preparation of a paper as a basis for discussion.

**8. Procedures for adopting standards by the Conference and its Bureau** (Note by UNECE secretariat) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/13**

Different types of handbooks, guidelines, best practices, recommendations and standards can be adopted by the Conference. The UNECE secretariat will submit a paper proposing a formal procedure for adoption of the various standards.

The Bureau is asked to comment on and to approve the procedure.

**9. Proposal for the review of the UNECE macroeconomic database** (Note by UNECE secretariat) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/14**

The External Evaluation Report of the UNECE recommended that the production and publication of UNECE member country statistics be reviewed and improved. Therefore, the UNECE secretariat would like to undertake an external assessment of the macroeconomic database and gender database in 2006. The UNECE will make a proposal on how to proceed with the assessment.

**10. Proposal for endorsement of the Official Principles of International Statistical Activities by the Conference and UNECE** (Note by UNECE secretariat) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/15**

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities endorsed, at its last meeting on 12-14 September 2005, a set of "Principles Governing International Statistical Activities". The chief statisticians of 22 international organizations, including UNECE, have expressed their willingness to adhere to this new set of principles. The Bureau will be asked to adopt a procedure for formal endorsement of these principles by the UNECE.

## **11. Progress reports on the CES Teams of Specialists**

- (a) Electronic Data Reporting (Note by the Task Force) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/16**

The Task Force on Electronic Data Reporting was set up following the Seminar in June 2005. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference of the Task Force in October 2005, and asked the Task Force to develop a work plan and report back to the Bureau in February 2006.

- (b) Sustainable development (Note by the Task Force) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/17**

The Task Force on Sustainable Development Indicators was set up following the recommendations of the seminar that was held in June 2005. The Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force in October 2005. The new outline for the work of the TF will be presented to the Bureau.

- (c) Migration statistics (Note by the Task Force) **ECE/CES/BUR/2006/18**

The Work Plan to improve international migration statistics was approved by the Bureau in October 2005. At the same meeting, the Bureau also approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Measuring Emigration. The Bureau will be informed on progress of work with regard to the implementation of the Work plan and the Task Force.

## **12. Information items**

- (a) Follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau (Note by UNECE secretariat)  
**ECE/CES/BUR/2006/19**

The Bureau will review the document that the UNECE secretariat is preparing for each meeting.

- (b) Preparation of the 2006 version of the Database of International Statistical Activities (formerly called Integrated Presentation)

The UNECE has been compiling this information at the request of the Bureau for a number of years. Since 2002, the information is available on Internet in a database format at the UNECE web site. The UNECE secretariat will provide brief information on the 2006 version of the database, which will be available on the UNECE web site by the time of the Bureau meeting. Printed copies of the DISA/IP will be made available in the meeting room.

**13. Dates and venue of the next Bureau meetings**

Under this agenda item, the Bureau is expected to confirm the dates and venue of its next meetings.

**14. Any other business**

Under this item, the Bureau will be asked to decide which papers from the October 2005 and February 2006 meetings will be made available on Internet in line with the Bureau decision to make its work public and transparent. In October 2005, the Bureau decided to temporarily stop automatic posting of documents on the website in light of concerns about public dissemination of CES materials while work is still under development and review.

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