

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For information

Second Meeting of the 2007/2008 Bureau  
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Item 11 of the Provisional  
Agenda

**FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU AND THE CONFERENCE**

Note by the secretariat

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The note on follow-up to decisions taken by the Bureau and the Conference has been prepared systematically since the October 2002. It is updated for each Bureau meeting and for the CES plenary session.
2. The present note follows up on the main decisions taken by the Bureau and Conference on which work is still not completed. Actions undertaken before 2007 are summarised in a short form under History; decisions and follow-up from 2007 are given in more detail. Under each decision, the action to be taken is indicated.
3. The decisions are grouped in two sections: I. Decisions related to the work of the Conference and its Bureau; and II. Decisions related to the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA/IP) and specific Statistical Activities (SAs).

### **I. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS BUREAU**

#### **Progress of work and strategies of international organizations**

4. **History:** at the June 2002 plenary session, it was agreed that, periodically, discussion should be devoted to the progress of work of international organizations and their strategies. The following international organizations have presented their statistical activities to the Bureau: IMF (October 2003), the World Bank (October 2004), Eurostat (October 2005) and UNSD (October 2006).

**Action:** *OECD will present its statistical activities in October 2007.*

#### **CES Seminars**

##### **Strategic issues linked to the measurement of international transactions**

5. The CES selected this topic for the seminar on emerging issues to be held during the CES 2008 plenary session. IMF and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis are the Organisers of the seminar.

**Action:** *The Bureau will review the outline of the seminar at its October 2007 meeting.*

##### **Measuring population movement and integration in a globalized world**

6. The CES selected this topic for the seminar on foundational issues of statistical systems to be held during the 2008 CES plenary session. Germany (to be confirmed) and Eurostat are the organisers of the seminar.

**Action:** *The Bureau will review the outline of the seminar at its October 2007 meeting.*

### **Measurement of capital – beyond the traditional measures**

7. The seminar was held in 2007. The Conference recommended to publish the proceedings of the seminar.

*Action: The UNECE and Statistics Netherlands will publish the proceedings of the seminar.*

### **Ways to increase the productivity of the statistical office and to conduct statistical programmes more efficiently and effectively**

8. The seminar was held in 2007. The Conference concluded that the discussion on this topic should continue in the future with the aim of collecting and sharing best practices in the field of measuring effectiveness, efficiency and productivity.

*Action: the Bureau to consider a possible follow-up at a future meeting.*

## **II. DECISIONS RELATED TO THE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (INTEGRATED PRESENTATION) AND SPECIFIC STATISTICAL AREAS**

### **Purpose, structure and compilation of the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA)**

9. History: In June 2006, the Conference emphasized the need to review periodically the high priority statistical areas where considerable work is ongoing. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the in-depth discussion on strategic issues in the next five years or so. Furthermore, the UNSD volunteered to submit the provisional agenda of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) to the Bureau at its October meeting to avoid eventual duplication with the topics for in-depth discussion at the Commission.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau decided to test a new approach for the in-depth reviews at its next two meetings focusing on a few selected areas and on strategic issues.

June 2007 Bureau meeting: The Bureau selected the topics to be reviewed in-depth in October 2007 and February 2008.

*Action: i) The Bureau will review in-depth in October 2007 two topics: statistics on gender and special population groups and income, living conditions and poverty;  
ii) The Bureau will review in-depth in February 2008 two topics: environment statistics and culture statistics;  
iii) the secretariat will circulate to the Conference in 2008 a paper informing about the discussions and the outcomes (including excerpts of respective topics from DISA and the Bureau decisions);  
iv) UNSD will inform the Bureau about the provisional agenda of the 2008 UNSC at the October meeting.*

### **Statistical Domain 1. Social statistics**

10. History: In February 2005, the Bureau supported the proposal to organise a joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on social statistics. The first meeting took place in September 2005. In October 2005, a Task Force was established to examine emerging issues in social statistics. In October 2006, the Bureau decided to focus the work on two areas: measurement of new forms of

families and households, and measurement of volunteer work and approved the TOR for the Task Forces on both topics.

***Action: the Bureau will be informed about progress of work in February 2008.***

### **SA 1.1 Population and Migration**

#### **Migration statistics**

11. History: in October 2005, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on Measuring Emigration. In February 2006, the Bureau welcomed the progress of work of the Task Force. February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau made an in-depth review of population statistics.

***Action: i) the forthcoming meeting on population projections (10-12 October 2007) will consider the request of the Bureau to document best practices in the production of demographic projections and post-census revision of population estimates; ii) Eurostat will inform the Bureau about the details of taking over the dissemination of population data from the Council of Europe.***

### **SA 1.2 Labour statistics**

12. History: In February 2006, the Bureau approved the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Measurement of Quality of Work with ILO acting as the secretariat. In October 2006, the Bureau approved the TOR for the TF on volunteering work.

June 2007 Bureau meeting: The Bureau reviewed the new TOR for the Task Force on quality of work and approved the TOR through an electronic consultation in July 2007.

***Action: the Task Force on quality of work was asked to provide an opportunity to countries who are not members of the TF to comment on the proposed indicators of quality of employment in early 2008, before the paper for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians is finalized. The Bureau will be informed about the development at a future meeting.***

### **SA 1.4 Health statistics**

13. History: the Bureau discussed coordination of health statistics at its meetings in 2006 and February 2007. Disappointment was expressed with the slow progress of the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics.

June 2007 plenary session: The Conference noted that there are ongoing concerns about the work of the ISWGHS and emphasized the need to build more effective working arrangements for the ISWGHS. WHO has announced that they withdraw from the Budapest initiative.

***Action: the Bureau will be informed about progress in coordination of health statistics at a future meeting.***

### **SA 1.8 Justice and crime statistics**

14. June 2006 plenary session: the Conference made an in-depth review of crime statistics. The Conference asked the Task Force on Victimization Surveys to continue its work towards the harmonisation of victimisation surveys and the harmonization of selected victimization statistics based on administrative records.

***Action: the Task Force on Victimization Surveys will present a progress report to the Bureau in October 2007.***

### **SA 1.9 Culture statistics**

15. History: in February 2003, the Bureau approved the proposal for the organization of a joint UNECE/UIS-UNESCO/Eurostat meeting in 2004-2005. The meeting has not been included in the UNECE Statistical Programme due to lack of resources. In February 2005, the Bureau asked Eurostat to consider taking over the organization of this meeting. In February 2007, Eurostat is still considering the organization of the meeting on culture statistics.

***Action: culture statistics will be reviewed in-depth at the February 2008 Bureau meeting.***

### **SA 2.3 Business statistics**

16. February 2007 Bureau meeting: The Bureau made an in-depth review of business statistics.

***Action: i) business statistics will be included on the agenda of the CES plenary session in 2008;***

***ii) a small task force should be formed to address pending issues in the field of business statistics. Ivan Fellegi and Pieter Everaers volunteered to draft a proposal for the terms of reference to be reviewed in February 2008;***

***iii) the issue will be discussed at the October 2007 meeting.***

### **SA 2.4.4 Transport statistics**

17. February 2007 Bureau meeting: The Bureau approved the TOR for UNECE data work in transport statistics.

***Action: The Bureau was asked to propose one expert for the assessment team, with the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) proposing the other two members. The Bureau proposed one expert, but no such offers were made on the side of the ITC. The work has concentrated on migrating some transport data to the PC-AXIS dissemination platform of the Statistical Division, thus making them available on the web in a more user-friendly way, and facilitating the implementation of common quality and presentation standards.***

### **SA 2.7 Prices**

18. History: In October 2006, the Bureau considered the TOR for a Steering Group on Price Statistics.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau considered the revised TOR but found that the comments made in October 2006 were not properly reflected.

July 2007: The revised TOR for the Organising Committee for the Joint UNECE/ILO meeting on Consumer Price Indices were consulted electronically with the Bureau. The Bureau agreed with the TOR.

***Action: the Bureau is asked to approve the TOR in October 2007.***

### **SA 3.3.1 Living conditions, poverty and cross-cutting social issues**

19. History: in countries' written comments to the Rapporteur Report on this issue at the CES June 2005 plenary session, it was proposed that a workshop be organized to develop an agenda

for future action. The October 2005 Bureau meeting noted that one possibility is to undertake the work within the Social Statistics Project.

***Action: the Bureau will review in-depth the topic of statistics on income, living conditions and poverty at its October 2007 meeting.***

#### **SA 3.3.4 Globalization**

20. History: The globalization was discussed at the June 2006 plenary session and coordination of work on globalization statistics was considered necessary. In October 2006, the Bureau considered a proposal for work on globalisation statistics.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau decided to create an expert group to deal with the distortions caused by globalisation in the compilation of national accounts. The Bureau asked Statistics Netherlands to chair the future Working Group. The TOR for the group were approved by electronic consultation in April 2007.

***Action: a detailed work plan of the Working Group will be presented to the CES Bureau in February 2008.***

#### **SA 3.3.6 Sustainable development**

21. History: In October 2005, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development (WGSSD). In February 2006, the Bureau approved the TOR for the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development and the work plan for the WGSSD. In October 2006, the Bureau reviewed the progress of WGSSD and made recommendations on how to proceed further.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau reviewed the progress and commended the group for the work done. Concern was raised in relation to the plans of UNSC to review the System of Economic and Environmental accounting while it has not yet been adopted and implemented.

***Action: the Working Group will present the report to the 2008 CES plenary session.***

#### **SA 4.1 Metadata**

22. February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau reviewed the progress with the Common Metadata Framework. It was decided to establish a Steering Group on Statistical Metadata.

***Action: the terms of reference for the Steering Group on Statistical Metadata will be presented to the Bureau in October 2007 for approval.***

#### **SA 4.3.2 Business and agricultural censuses and registers**

23. October 2006 Bureau meeting: the Bureau considered the TOR for a Steering Group on Business Registers. The Bureau asked to revise the TOR for the February 2007 meeting.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau reviewed the updated TOR but considered that the recommendations of its previous meeting were not properly reflected in the document.

***Action: the Bureau will consider the revised proposal in February 2008 (in order to take into account the conclusions from the meeting of the Roundtable of Business Survey Frames in October 2007).***

**SA 4.6 Statistical confidentiality and disclosure protection**

24. History: as a follow-up to the CES Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata in June 2003, a Task Force was created to develop a set of guidelines for confidentiality protection. The CES Bureau approved the *Guidelines for managing confidentiality and microdata* in October 2006. Furthermore, it was recommended to set up a Task Force to examine the confidentiality and privacy concerns related to integrated data sets and consider the development of common principles.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: the Bureau approved the TOR for the Task Force on Confidentiality and Privacy Issues in Integrated Data Sets.

*Action: the TF will submit a draft set of principles and practices for the creation and use of integrated datasets to the CES 2008 plenary session. The first draft to be reviewed by the Bureau in February 2008.*

**SA 5.3 Quality frameworks and measurement of performance of statistical systems and offices**

25. June 2006 plenary session: the Conference considered quality frameworks based on a Rapporteur Report prepared by Sweden. The Conference considered it necessary to establish a focal point to coordinate the numerous international activities going on in this area.

*Action: the Bureau decided to wait for the outcome of the CCSA initiative on this topic to see if any follow-up action is still necessary. The outcome of the CCSA work will be presented to the Statistical Commission in February 2008.*

**SA 5.4 Management and development of human resources**

26. June 2006 plenary session: the CES seminar on human resources and training was held. The Conference considered it necessary to continue to exchange experience in this area.

February 2007 meeting: the Bureau approved the TOR for an Organising Committee (OC) for a forum on human resources management to take place in 2008.

*Action: the OC will submit the draft concept of the forum to the CES Bureau in October 2007.*

**SA 5.5 Management and development of technological resources**

27. History: at the June 2005 plenary session, the Conference recommended to establish a working group to further explore the issues concerning Electronic Data Reporting (EDR). The Bureau approved the TOR for the work of the Task Force on EDR in October 2005 and a work plan in February 2006.

February 2007 Bureau meeting: The Bureau considered a progress report by the Steering Group on Management of Statistical Information Systems and supported the continuation of the work.

*Action: a report by the Task Force on EDR will be presented at the 2008 plenary session of the Conference.*

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