

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

For information

Meeting of the 2014/2015 Bureau  
Geneva (Switzerland), 21-22 October 2014

Item 9(d) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL  
GUIDELINES ON STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTERS**

**Note by the Task Force**

*This document provides a progress report of the Task Force on International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers. **The Bureau is invited to take note of work done and the time plan** for submission of the final report of the Task Force to the Bureau in February 2015 with a view of submitting it to the CES 2015 plenary for endorsement.*

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. The Bureau established the Task Force on Statistical Business Registers (SBR) in November 2011 to produce a set of international guidelines and recommendations on good practices in SBR. The guidelines are targeted at both developed and less developed statistical systems and provide practical guidance and recommendations on the establishment and maintenance of SBR.

2. The Task Force consists of the following countries and organizations: Austria (chair), Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, The African Development Bank, Eurostat, OECD and UNSD. UNECE provides the secretariat support.

3. According to the original time plan the Task Force should have submitted its final report to the Bureau meeting in October 2013 to be presented to the CES plenary session in 2014 for endorsement. Due to the need for consultations with countries and organisations, delays in the drafting of the chapters and more time needed for reviewing and editing, the Bureau in October 2013 agreed to extend the time plan of the Task Force by one year and to present the final report to the CES plenary session in June 2015.

**II. PROGRESS OF WORK**

4. Since October 2013 the work on drafting and editing the chapters of the report has progressed well. The Task Force reviewed all draft chapters and comments received from countries at a meeting in September 2013, organised back-to-back with the joint biennial UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Expert Group meeting on business registers. The Task Force concluded that an editor would be needed to ensure coherence and consistency across the chapters. As a response to this need Statistics Canada agreed to finance an editor, Mr. Michael Colledge. He carried out the first round of editing in February – April 2014.

5. The Task Force discussed the edited draft chapters and a number of cross-cutting issues at a meeting on 28 April 2014 in Luxembourg, back-to-back with the Eurostat Working Group on business registers. Following this meeting the authors continued to review and further elaborate the draft chapters and submitted their final drafts by August 2014. After a second round of editing, the edited draft chapters were presented to the Wiesbaden Group meeting on 15-18 September 2014 in Vienna, hosted by Statistics Austria, to solicit concrete comments and proposals on the draft chapters.

6. Furthermore, in the course of preparing the Guidelines the Task Force identified a number of questions related to the definitions and delineations of enterprises and institutional units in SNA and ISIC. To ensure that the report of the Task Force will be in line with these standards the Task Force submitted a number of questions for clarification to the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, 8-10 September 2014.

### III. FURTHER WORK

7. In September-November 2014, the Task Force and the editor will follow-up on comments received from the Wiesbaden Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and incorporate these in the chapters. The final draft version of the report will be completed in time to be submitted to the Bureau meeting in February 2015. If the Bureau agrees, the draft will be circulated for consultation with all CES members in March-April 2015. After that, comments received will be incorporated and the final version of the report will be submitted to the CES plenary in June 2015 for endorsement.

#### Time plan for the remaining work

| Date               | Activity   |
|--------------------|--|
| Sep – Nov 2014     | Editing of draft chapters and incorporating comments from the Wiesbaden Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts.                                |
| Nov - Dec 2014     | Final editing of draft chapters.   |
| January 2015       | Submitting final draft of the report to the Bureau in February 2015 for comments and agreement to have it circulated for global consultation to all CES members. |
| Feb - March 2015   | Incorporating comments from the Bureau.  |
| March – April 2015 | Consulting with all CES members and organizations.   |
| April 2015         | Submitting the final report to the CES plenary session 2015 for endorsement.   |
| Second half 2015   | UNECE prepares the publication in both electronic and printed versions.  |

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