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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
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**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts
(Paris, 11-14 October 2005)

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. A joint UNECE/OECD Meeting on National Accounts was held in Paris from 11-14 October 2005. It was attended by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. The United Nations Statistical Division, the European Community (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Central Bank (ECB) attended. The Project Manager of the update of the SNA, Ms. Carol Carson, and the Editor, Ms. Anne Harrison, also attended.

2. Mr. François Lequiller (OECD) acted as Chair, and Ms. Irena Tvarijonaviciute (Statistics Lithuania) was elected Vice-Chair.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

3. The 2005 OECD Working Party on National Accounts was organised as a joint meeting with the UNECE. Most of the topics were related to the current process for updating the 1993 SNA and therefore it was essential that a large consultation with all countries in the UNECE region be ensured.

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting:

- (a) 1993 SNA Review: financial issues;
- (b) 1993 SNA Review: general government accounts;
- (c) 1993 SNA Review: non-financial assets (Canberra II);
- (d) 1993 SNA Review: other issues;
- (e) National accounts data at the OECD;
- (f) Measuring capital stocks, capital services and productivity;
- (g) Open Session: alternative measures of well-being; revisions in quarterly accounts of OECD countries.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE MEETING

5. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current update of the 1993 SNA and to obtain countries' input to the proposed changes. Progress reports on the review of the SNA, of the Task Force on Financial Services, Task Force on the Harmonisation of Public Sector Accounts and the Canberra II group (non-financial assets) were given.

6. The meeting was attended by 14 non-OECD countries. The participants from these countries appreciated the possibility of being informed about the SNA review process and of being involved in the detailed discussions on individual issues. It is important to retain their continued involvement in the review process.

7. Carol Carson, the Project Manager of the update of the 1993 SNA, encouraged countries to submit comments on the SNA review via the UNSD website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/issues.asp>). She also underlined the importance of the involvement and active participation of countries in the Task Forces and Expert Groups working on specific parts of the SNA update.

8. All documents for the meeting are available at the UNECE and OECD websites (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.10.sna.htm>, http://www.oecd.org/document/5/0,2340,en_2649_34245_34870725_1_1_1_1,00.html).

9. The OECD secretariat will prepare a detailed summary of the discussion.

RECOMMENDED FUTURE WORK

10. The next meeting of the OECD Working Party on National Accounts will be held on 9-13 October 2006. It was recommended that the meeting in 2006 be open once again to the UNECE countries that are non-members of OECD.

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