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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Business Registers

Eleventh session  
Luxembourg, 6-7 October 2009

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH SESSION**

To be held at Jean Monnet Building, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, Luxembourg  
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 6 October 2009 in Meeting Room M1

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Information items:
  - (a) Information by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
  - (b) Information by the Commission of the European Communities;
  - (c) Information by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;
  - (d) Report of the Wiesbaden City Group.
3. Profiling practices and related issues (profiling of public sector units, special purpose entities, etc.).
4. Sources for identification of enterprise groups (before profiling).

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5. Business Register as a source for further development of business demography statistics.
6. Best practices for publication, dissemination and wider statistical use of Business Register data.
7. Outcome and conclusions: Conveners' summary.
8. Future work: meeting future needs and priorities.
9. Other business and adoption of Report.

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. The Group of Experts on Business Registers is convened pursuant the provisions made in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Statistical programme for 2009 (Activity 5.4: Business registers) as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee on 27 February 2009 (ECE/EX/2009/L.4) and endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians on 10 June 2009 (ECE/CES/76). It is organised in cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

### **Item 1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**

2. Every two years UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD is organizing session for the Group of Experts on Business Registers. The last session in Geneva in 2007, while addressing existing gaps between western and eastern countries in the statistical Business Register (BR) development, identified a number of areas that would benefit from more profound methodological discussion and exchange of views and experiences of national experts. The list among others included issues of covering enterprise groups, public sector units, use and dissemination of BR data. The purpose of the 2009 Session is to explore the above mentioned issues by examining certain aspects of comparability of methods and approaches used for improving quality of BRs and their statistical outputs. The Session will provide also a platform for sharing information on new international initiatives and projects, research results or related advancements.

3. The proposed provisional agenda is agreed upon by the Organizing Committee consisting of representatives from UNECE, Eurostat and OECD and experts from national statistical offices. The provisional agenda will be presented for the approval by the participants of the session.

### **Item 2. Information items**

4. The representatives of Organizing Committee from UNECE, Eurostat and OECD will inform session's participants on major events and work undertaken by respective international organizations in the area of statistical business registers since 2007 Meeting. The Steering Group

of the Wiesbaden City group will also present its report on the meeting in Paris in November 2008 and on ongoing activities.

**Item 3. Profiling practices and related issues (profiling of public sector units, special purpose entities, etc.)**

5. Convener: Switzerland. The focus of this item will be on the implementation of profiling within the framework of public administration. Based on practical examples, it will aim to ascertain the specificities of the profiling methods in public administration (definition of "group" of enterprises in this sector, of local units, treatment and follow-up of units, etc.), to underscore the advantages and disadvantages of these methods. Canada, France, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and the United Kingdom are expected to present papers for the discussion.

**Item 4. Sources for identification of enterprise groups (before profiling)**

6. Convener: Eurostat. The worldwide globalization has increased the expectations on official statistics widening *inter alia* the function of statistical BRs and the requirements for them. The observation units like the enterprise group play a fundamental role in the production of economic statistics and their importance is underlined by their integration as obligatory units into the national statistical BRs in the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. The item will focus on following three broad headings: (a) Sources of information on enterprise groups; (b) Sharing of information; (c) Processing of data.

7. The goal of the item is to provide an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to these topics, research results or related developments. China, Mexico, the Netherlands, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Eurostat are expected to contribute papers for the discussion.

**Item 5. Business Register as a source for further development of business demography statistics**

8. Convener: OECD. In a context of financial turmoil and crisis, there is a growing demand for a range of economic statistics for categories of businesses, such as small, new and rapidly growing firms. The more aggregate production and employment data are no longer sufficient for in-depth economic assessments by analysts and policymakers. Since economic recovery is more likely to come from the "micro" end of the economic spectrum, more and timely information is needed on business start-ups, very small, small and medium enterprises, and the related dynamics of business creation. This item intends to better identify the role of business registers in monitoring the compositional trends, shifts and dynamics of these economic actors. Three main categories are distinguished: (a) Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs); (b) Business Demography; (c) Entrepreneurship.

9. The goal of this item is to provide an assessment of the state-of-the-art in related statistical developments and to identify avenues for future research which could feed into the next Wiesbaden Group meeting to be held in 2010 in Estonia. Israel, Japan, Spain, Eurostat and OECD are expected to contribute papers for the discussion.

**Item 6. Best practices for publication, dissemination and wider statistical use of Business Register data**

10. Convener: UNECE. Publication and dissemination of register data was discussed several times in the previous sessions but as more client-oriented policies in statistics take ground and new techniques become available for dissemination of statistical data, it remains a topical issue. The purpose of this item is to review current practices in this area and explore the new ways and types of data being (or ready to be) disseminated from statistical BR. The item will concentrate on: (a) Development of outputs from the statistical BR in support of specific government/municipal policies; (b) The issue of inter-agency statistical BR data dissemination for internal research purposes; (c) Direct statistical BR data publication/ dissemination toward the external research community and wider public. The legal constraints on data sharing, confidentiality issues, the data-sharing infrastructure differences, and other limitations will be addressed. Finland and Tajikistan are expected to contribute papers for the discussion.

**Item 7. Outcome and conclusions: Conveners' summary**

11. The conveners will briefly summarize the outcomes of the discussion during the four substantive items.

**Item 8. Future work: Meeting future needs and priorities**

12. The conveners will identify major items for in-depth discussion in the next session. Estonia - the host of the Wiesbaden Group 2010 - will report on the date and place of the next meeting.

**Item 9. Other business and adoption of Report**

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