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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1995/96 AND 1996/97:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of this document and its six addenda

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes in the ECE region. That is to say it includes not only the statistical work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also the relevant statistical work carried out in the ECE region by the Commission of the European Communities, OECD, the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ILO, WHO, IMF, the World Trade Organization (ex GATT), the World Bank, The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT) and many other agencies. The programmes are presented in six separate documents - one for each domain in the Conference's programme of work - as follows:

- Sub-programme 1: Organization and Operation of statistical services
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.1)
- Sub-programme 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.2)
- Sub-programme 3: Economic statistics (CES/1995/R.25/Add.3)
- Sub-programme 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/1995/R.25/Add.4)
- Sub-programme 5: Natural resources and environment statistics
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.5)

Sub-programme 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities
(CES/1995/R.25/Add.6)

2. The integrated presentation is the primary tool that the Conference of European Statisticians uses to coordinate international statistical work carried out by different international organizations in the ECE region. The integrated presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives which it had confirmed at its 1993 plenary session, as follows:

- i) to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other appropriate bodies, as necessary;
- ii) to promote close coordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices; and
- iii) to respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the ECE region and between the ECE region and other regions.

3. The integrated presentation is prepared annually, according to the following timetable:

i) December-February : The ECE secretariat obtains information from the other organizations on their programmes of work and prepares a first draft of the integrated presentation for review by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its February meeting of each year.

ii) March-June : The integrated presentation is updated and amended to include the Bureau's recommended decisions to the Conference in each field of statistics, and it is presented in draft form for review by the Conference at its annual meeting in June.

iii) July-August : The integrated presentation is amended to reflect the decisions taken by the Conference at its June meeting concerning its own work programme, and any changes in the programmes of other organisations, and it is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

4. Thus, the material presented in the six addenda referred to in para. 1 above has been amended to reflect decisions taken by the Conference at its June 1995 plenary session. At that plenary session, the Conference approved the parts of the integrated presentation that comprise its own work programme. It also offered suggestions and advice on planned future work in the parts of the integrated presentation that are the responsibility of other international organizations.

Format of the integrated presentation:

5. Each of the six sub-programmes in the Conference's programme of work is sub-divided into a number of programme elements, and each programme element is described within the following framework:

OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS: Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

ISSUES TO WHICH THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE IS DRAWN: List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

DECISIONS BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1995 PLENARY SESSION: List of decisions on its programme of work taken by the Conference at the plenary session.

MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Sponsoring agency, title, date.

RAPPORTEUR/FOCAL POINT: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for monitoring, on behalf of the Conference, progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS: Description of the major activities of agencies in that field in the coming two years. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat and on priority ratings for the Conference's own programme of work. The ECE resources implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work

months); and substantial (over 6 work months). The priority ratings for the Conference's own programme of work are labelled "Priority A", "B" or "C", where Priority A indicates work to be undertaken by the Conference in 1995/96; Priority B means work is planned for 1996/97 but not for 1995/96; and Priority C indicates work is not planned to be undertaken by the Conference in that field during the next two years.

Other background information

6. This is the third integrated presentation that has been prepared for review by the Conference at its annual plenary sessions. (The two earlier presentations were prepared for the Conference's 1993 and 1994 plenary sessions). It differs from the two earlier presentations in that it reflects the developments agreed by the Bureau of the Conference during 1994/95, as requested by the Conference, to further improve both the integrated presentation proper and the procedures that the Conference uses for programming and coordinating international statistical work in the ECE region. The major innovations introduced by the Bureau during 1994/95 and endorsed by the Conference at its 1995 plenary session have been incorporated into the presentation contained in the addenda to this note. The innovations may be summarized as follows:

- a) The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of the sub-programmes on economic statistics (sub-programme 3) at their meeting in October 1994 and social and demographic statistics (sub-programme 4) at their meeting in February 1995. This resulted in numerous proposed changes to the objectives and outputs for the projects in each of these sub-programmes. (The other sub-programmes will be reviewed in depth in 1995/96 by the Bureau).
- b) The Bureau considered that it would be useful for the Conference to ask various international organizations active in the region to serve as "rapporteurs or focal points" for monitoring progress towards the outputs and objectives that have been specified for each project. It drew up a list of tasks that rapporteurs/focal points would be asked to carry out on behalf of the Conference (see paras 16-17 below). It also suggested which organization should be asked to act as the rapporteur/focal point for most of the projects in sub-programmes 3 and 4. (It is anticipated that during the 1995/96 period the new Bureau will also suggest which organizations might be asked to act as rapporteurs for the projects in the other sub-programmes).
- c) The Bureau also agreed that the sequence of sub-headings within each project (objectives, outputs, etc.) should be re-arranged, so that the information of greatest potential interest to the Conference would be presented at the beginning of each project.

- d) The Bureau further agreed that the wording of most of the sub-headings should be modified, so as to make their intended meaning clearer.

7. Most of the bureau's proposals for changes to the integrated presentation were accepted by the Conference at its 1995 plenary session. They have therefore now been incorporated into the presentation shown in addendas 1-6 of this document.

"Sub-programmes" and "programme elements"

8. The integrated presentation is divided into six sub-programmes which comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and these sub-programmes are in turn sub-divided into a total of 47 programme elements (see Table 1).

9. Sub-programme 1 covers broad policy and managerial issues of relevance to statistical offices, as well as international coordination and technical assistance.

10. Sub-programme 2 addresses technical and other cross-cutting issues that span the various subject-matter areas covered by sub-programmes 3, 4 and 5. Technical issues applying only to a particular subject area are addressed under that subject area; only cross-cutting issues are addressed under sub-programme 2.

11. The core of the programme lies in the substantive sub-programmes 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social statistics, and environmental statistics respectively. Each of these sub-programmes may address conceptual issues, standards, and questions of design, collection, production, dissemination and analysis of statistical data arising in their domains.

12. Sub-programme 6 covers the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and in providing support to their host organizations.

13. The division of these sub-programmes into 47 programme elements aims to be exhaustive while keeping the number of programme elements to a minimum consistent with the aims of the Conference. Each programme element is characterized by a statement of broad objectives and scope in a homogeneous area of statistical activity. The complete list of programme elements in the Conference's programme of work is provided in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in the integrated presentation in which information for the programme element can be found. The list of abbreviations used in the work programmes are given in Annex I.

14. While the structure and delineation of programme elements are expected to change slowly, the level of activity within programme elements will vary more rapidly between elements and over time. At any one time, some programme

elements will be dormant, while others may be hyperactive. For each planning period, the Conference will be required to review proposed goals and activities for particular programme elements and to decide on priorities.

15. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in the ECE region and other OECD countries. Information for each of the programme elements is presented using the standard headings which are listed and defined in para. 5 above (objectives over the next several years; expected collective output in the next two years; issues to which the attention of the Conference is drawn; decisions by the Conference at the 1995 plenary session; meetings in the next two years; rapporteur/focal point organization; and activities to be undertaken in the next two years by the different international organizations).

Functions of rapporteurs/focal points

16. The Bureau of the Conference, in its in-depth review of sub-programmes 3 (economic statistics) and 4 (social and demographic statistics) in 1994/95, concluded that in programme elements where several international organizations are actively working, it would be useful for the Conference to ask one agency to serve as the "rapporteur or focal point" for the Conference for work in that field. The Conference agreed to the Bureau's proposals at its 1995 plenary session. It is anticipated that during 1995/96 the Bureau will also make recommendations to the Conference for rapporteurs/focal points for the programme elements in the other sub-programmes.

17. The specific functions which the Conference asks that rapporteurs/focal points perform on its behalf are summarized below:

- A. to make concise (maximum 2 pages) action-oriented reports to the Bureau annually, through the Secretary of the Conference. These reports should assess the extent to which progress is being made by the agencies towards the agreed 'objectives' and 'outputs'. If there are any key issues of a 'policy' nature in their field of statistics that warrant being discussed by the Conference, this should be indicated in their reports. Such issues may involve substantive guidance on significant priority issues, significant proposed revisions to the current objectives, requests for substantive assistance from national, international, or/and supranational statistical offices, etc. The reports are to be submitted at the end of each calendar year, so that the Bureau may review them at its February meeting and report to the Conference each June;

- B. to keep abreast of the relevant activities that are being undertaken by other relevant agencies, in order to fulfil function (a) above;
- C. to advise the Bureau on how the objectives and outputs might best be achieved;
- D. to ensure that all relevant agencies are aware of the objectives and outputs that have been approved by the Conference; and
- E. to suggest to the Bureau, when necessary, how the objectives and/or outputs should be amended so as to ensure that they reflect the intended meanings of these terms (see para. 5 above) and to make clearer which organization is responsible for each output indicated.

Planned future development of the integrated presentation

18. The process of improving the integrated presentation is still not yet complete. In particular, the new objectives, activities, meetings and outputs in each programme element in sub-programmes 1, 2, 5 and 6 are not yet fully consistent, and further work remains to be done in reconciling the components of each programme element. The Conference has asked the Bureau to address these issues prior to the 1996 plenary session.

Other relevant information

19. Background information on ECE secretariat resources available for the work programme of the Conference is given in Annex II of this note.

Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)

| Sub-programme | Programme element |
|---|---|
| <u>Sub-programme 1</u> : Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.1) | 1.1 Issues of statistical policy 1.2 Transition countries 1.3 Promotion and coordination of international statistical work 1.4 Technical assistance to developing countries |
| <u>Sub-programme 2</u> : Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.2) | 2.1 Management of statistical information technology 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Industry, commodity and occupation classifications 2.5 Statistical methodology 2.6 Geography 2.7 Regional statistics 2.8 Training |

| Sub-programme | Programme element |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Sub-programme 3</u> : Economic statistics (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.3)</p> | <p>3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts</p> <p>3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments</p> <p>3.3 International trade in goods</p> <p>3.4 Transport</p> <p>3.5 Distributive trades</p> <p>3.6 International trade in services</p> <p>3.7 Tourism</p> <p>3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services</p> <p>3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities</p> <p>3.10 Agricultural statistics</p> <p>3.11 Industrial statistics</p> <p>3.12 Energy statistics</p> <p>3.13 Science and technology statistics</p> <p>3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics</p> <p>3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics</p> |
| <p><u>Sub-programme 4</u> : Social and demographic statistics (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.4)</p> | <p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks</p> <p>4.2 Gender statistics</p> <p>4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys</p> <p>4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics</p> <p>4.5 Population and housing censuses</p> <p>4.6 Health statistics</p> <p>4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics</p> <p>4.8 Education and training statistics</p> <p>4.9 Culture statistics</p> <p>4.10 Labour statistics</p> <p>4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility)</p> <p>4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics</p> <p>4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality</p> <p>4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest</p> <p>4.XX Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics</p> |

| Sub-programme | Programme element |
|--|--|
| <u>Sub-programme 5</u> : Natural resources and environment statistics (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.5) | 5.1 Standards and frameworks for environmental data and indicators 5.2 Natural resources and environmental accounting 5.3 Environmental database development and dissemination |
| <u>Sub-programme 6</u> : Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document CES/1995/R.25/Add.6) | 6.1 Dissemination of statistical data by the secretariats 6.2 Statistical support for other activities of the secretariats |

**Annex I. List of abbreviations used in the work programmes
of Eurostat and the OECD**

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CAP PAC | Common Agricultural Policy (Eurostat) [Politique agricole commune] |
| CCEET | Centre for Co-operation with the European Economies in Transition [Centre pour la Coopération avec les Economies en Transition] |
| CDIS | Management Committee on Statistical Information (Eurostat) [Comité Directeur de l'Information Statistique] |
| CD-ROM | Compact disks with read-only memory |
| CEEC PECO | Central and Eastern European Countries [Pays d'Europe centrale et orientale] |
| CESD | European Training Centre for Economists-Statisticians from Developing Countries (Eurostat) [Centre de formation des Economistes-Statisticiens des pays en voie de Développement] |
| CIT | Countries in transition |
| CMFB | Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (Eurostat) [Comité des statistiques Monétaires, Financières et de Balance des paiements] |
| COFOG CFAB | Classification of the Functions of Government (Eurostat) [Classification des fonctions des administrations publiques] |
| CPA | Classification of Products according to Activity (Eurostat) [Classification des Produits liés aux Activités] |
| DGINS | Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [Conférence des Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique] |
| DOSES | Specific programme for the Research and Development of Statistical Expert Systems (Eurostat) [Programme spécifique de recherche-développement des systèmes experts en statistique] |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| DSIS | Distributed Statistics Information System (Eurostat) [Système d'Information Statistique Réparti] |
| EAA CEA | Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat) [Comptes économiques de l'agriculture] |
| ECCI | European Employment Cost Index (Eurostat) |
| ECHP | European Coordinated Household Panels (Eurostat) |
| ECMT CEMT | The European Conference of Ministers of Transport [Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports] |
| EEA EEE | European Economic Area (Eurostat) [Espace économique européen] |
| EEA AEE | European Environment Agency (Eurostat) [Agence européenne de l'environnement] |
| EECI | European Employment Costs Index (Eurostat) [Indice européen du coût de la main-d'oeuvre] |
| EHLASS | European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (Eurostat) [Système européen de contrôle des accidents au foyer et lors des activités de loisir] |
| EMI IME | European Monetary Institute (Eurostat) [Institut monétaire européen] |
| EMU UEM | Economic and Monetary Union (Eurostat) [Union économique et monétaire] |
| ESA SEC | European System of integrated national Accounts (Eurostat) [Système européen de comptes nationaux intégrés] |
| ESSPROS SESPROS | European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (Eurostat) [Système européen de statistiques intégrées de la Protection Sociale] |
| GISCO | Geographic Information System for the Commission |
| IPCC | |
| NACE | General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (Eurostat) [Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes] |

| | |
|--------|--|
| NIS | New Independent States (former Republics of the USSR) Nouveaux Etats Indépendants |
| NSI | National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) |
| INS | [Instituts nationaux de statistique] |
| NUTS | Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (Eurostat) [Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques] |
| OWN/d | OECD World data Network |
| PHARE | Action plan for coordinated aid for restructuring economies in Poland and Hungary (Eurostat) [Pologne-Hongrie Assistance à la Restructuration des Economies] |
| PIT | Partners in Transition (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics) |
| PPP | Purchasing Power Parities |
| SCCTAS | Steering Committee to Coordinate Technical Assistance in Statistics to countries of the former Soviet Union |
| SERIEE | Collection of economic information on the environment (Eurostat) [Collecte d'informations économiques sur l'environnement] |
| SERT | Business statistics and telematics networks (Eurostat) [Statistiques des Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques] |
| SIRENE | System of Distributed Information on Energy (Eurostat) |
| SME | Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat) |
| PME | [Petites et moyennes entreprises] |
| SOPEMI | Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations] |
| SPC | Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat) |
| CPS | [Comité du Programme Statistique] |
| SPEL | Sectoral production and income model for Community Agriculture (Eurostat) [Modèle de la production et des revenus du secteur agricole communautaire] |
| TACIS | Technical Assistance CIS (Eurostat) |
| TES | Training of European Statisticians (Eurostat) [Formation des statisticiens européens] |

TRAINS Transport Information System (Eurostat)
 [Gestion statistique des transports terrestres]

Annex II

ECE secretariat resources available for the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, 1995/96 and 1996/97

1. The programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 1995/96 and 1996/97 is presented in addenda 1-6 of this note, in conjunction with the statistical work programmes of other international and supranational organizations active in the ECE region. The programme of work of the Conference is included, programme element by programme element, under the heading "Activities of the ECE". However, in several programme elements, ECE statistical work is also presented under this heading which is the responsibility of other ECE Divisions or ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (the Conference of European Statisticians is a Principal Subsidiary Body of the ECE). In such cases, the planned future work does not form part of the programme of work of the Conference, nor is the Conference responsible for it. Moreover, in such cases, the text also always makes clear that these types of ECE activities are the responsibility of other ECE Divisions.

2. This annex contains information on the amount of ECE secretariat resources that are expected to be available for the Conference's work programme for 1995/96 and 1996/97, which the Conference took into account when deciding on its work programme. ¹

3. In considering its draft programme of work for 1995/96, at the 1995 plenary session, the Conference took the following information about secretariat resources into account. It responds to the provisions of Commission decisions E (48) on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe and I (48) on reporting from the Subsidiary Bodies to the Commission:

- The current United Nations regular budget provides a total of \$6,597,700 for the work of the ECE Statistical Division for the 1994-1995 biennium. Of this sum, an estimated \$1,649,400 is intended for work that the Statistical Division performs for other Divisions of the ECE (this refers to the work done by the Interdivisional Economic Statistics Team and the ECE Graphical Design Unit), and the remaining \$4,948,300 is available mainly for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. More than 98% of this sum is spent on staff costs in the Statistical Division, with small amounts available for official travel, consultants,

¹ Details on the budget of the ECE for the 1996-1997 biennium will not be available until around the end of 1995, and therefore budgetary information presented in this annex relates only to the 1994-1995 biennium. The budget is, however, expected to be similar in the next period.

equipment and external printing of publications. This amount is supplemented by 2% of the UNOG (United Nations, Geneva) costs apportioned to ECE for conference services, which is absorbed by the Conference of European Statisticians.

- The work of the Conference is also be supported by some extra-budgetary funds: Some of these are contributions from Eurostat to various joint ECE-Eurostat activities (This includes a contribution of 49,000 ECU for consultancy work on the revision of the UN recommendations on household income, of 8,000 ECU for consultancy work on the recommendations for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses in the ECE region, and of 10,000 ECU for Statistics Sweden to help it to defray the additional labour costs it has encountered in producing the ECE-Eurostat-INSTRAW-Statistics Sweden joint publication on gender statistics). Extra-budgetary funds are also available from the new UNDP-financed project which has been initiated to assist countries in transition to develop and further improve their social and demographic statistics. The ECE Statistical Division has been appointed as the executing agency of the project, and as a result two extra-budgetary posts (the project coordinator and the secretariat/translation assistant) are available to help manage the project.
- Of the 38 posts allocated to the Statistical Division, fourteen (37%) are devoted to servicing other parts of the ECE. This includes 6 posts in the Information Systems Unit which provide EDP support to other Divisions, 5 posts in the Interdivisional Economic Statistics Team that provide statistical support for the analytical work carried out by the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections, and 3 posts in the ECE Graphics Design Unit that provide cartographical support to other Divisions. The remaining 24 posts in the Division (63%) are resources that are available to support the implementation of the Conference's work programme, including the production of seven annual ECE statistical publications.
- Of the 24 secretariat posts available to service the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, approximately:
 - 8% are devoted to sub-programme 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services);
 - 18% are devoted to sub-programme 2 (Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues);
 - 29% are devoted to sub-programme 3 (Economic statistics);
 - 10% are devoted to sub-programme 4 (Social and demographic statistics);

18% are devoted to sub-programme 5 (Natural resources and environment statistics); and

17% are devoted to sub-programme 6 (Dissemination and support for secretariat activities).

- The number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation allotted to the Conference between April 1994 and June 1995, in accordance with Commission decision O (45), was 14.

- At the end of March 1995 there were three vacant professional posts and one vacant General Service post in the Statistical Division. Two of the three vacant professional posts were at an advanced stage of staffing. The remaining vacant professional post was in the field of economic statistics (sub-programme 3). The vacant general service post was in the Interdivisional Economic Statistics Team, and therefore it does not affect the programme of work of the Conference. Three of the four vacancies have been used to employ short-term staff.