



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CES/1996/R.10/Add.1
28 March 1996

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-fourth plenary session
(Paris, 11-13 June 1996)

PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1996/97 AND 1997/98:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION

**SUB-PROGRAMME 1
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

The format of this integrated presentation

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international 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/1996/R.10/Add.1)

Sub-programme 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues
(CES/1996/R.10/Add.2)

Sub-programme 3: Economic statistics (CES/1996/R.10/Add.3)

Sub-programme 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/1996/R.10/Add.4)

Sub-programme 5: Environment statistics (CES/1996/R.10/Add.5)

Sub-programme 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities
(CES/1996/R.10/Add.6)

2. 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 it is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

3. Thus, the material presented in the six documents referred to above has been amended to reflect decisions taken by the Conference at its June 1995 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.

4. Each sub-programme 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 considers should be brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1996 PLENARY SESSION: List of decisions on its programme of work recommended to be taken by the Conference at the plenary session.

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

RAPPORTEUR: International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing 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 (the resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months; moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months)), and on priority ratings for the Conference's own programme of work (which are labelled "Priority A", "B" or "C" - Priority A indicates work to be undertaken by the Conference in 1996/97; Priority B means work is planned for 1997/98 but not for 1996/97; Priority C indicates work is not planned to be undertaken by the Conference in that field during the next two years).

Priority menus and lists of meetings

5. The "priority menu" summarizing the major types of activities the Conference plans to work on during the next two years in all projects in the sub-programme is given at the end of this addendum, together with a consolidated list of meetings that the ECE, Eurostat and the OECD plan to organize under this sub-programme in the next two years.

List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference

6. The list of programme elements in the whole programme of work of the Conference is given in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found.

Other related information

7. As the integrated presentation is being presented in the same format in six separate documents, this explanatory note on the new format of the presentation is being reproduced in each of the documents. A separate short document (CES/1996/R.10) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.

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/1996/R.10/Add.1)	1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices 1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)
<u>Sub-programme 2</u> : Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document CES/1996/R.10/Add.2)	2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure 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 research and development 2.6 Geographical and regional data 2.7 Human resource development
<u>Sub-programme 3</u> : Economic statistics (See document CES/1996/R.10/Add.3)	3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport 3.5 Distributive trades 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agricultural statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics 3.13 Science and technology statistics 3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics 3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics

Sub-programme	Programme element
<p><u>Sub-programme 4</u>: Social and demographic statistics (See document CES/1996/R.10/Add.4)</p>	<p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks 4.2 Gender statistics 4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys 4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics 4.5 Population and housing censuses 4.6 Health statistics 4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics 4.8 Education and training statistics 4.9 Culture statistics 4.10 Labour statistics 4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility) 4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics 4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality 4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest 4.XX Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics</p>
<p><u>Sub-programme 5</u>: Environment statistics (See document CES/1996/R.10/Add.5)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications 5.2 Environmental accounting 5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p>
<p><u>Sub-programme 6</u>: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document CES/1996/R.10/Add.6)</p>	<p>6.1 Coordination of international data collection 6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

**SUB-PROGRAMME 1
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

1.1 PROMOTION AND COORDINATION OF MULTILATERAL STATISTICAL WORK

Objectives over the next several years: To manage multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices; to ensure minimal duplication in data collection from member countries; to ensure the consistency of published data; to promote coherence in the agenda of statistical committees, working parties, task forces and groups so that international exchanges of views are mutually reinforcing; and to promote the adoption of unified work programmes with a consistent view of priorities.

Expected collective output in the next two years: Decisions by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to the ECE secretariat on the Conference's own work programme, and guidance by the Conference to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to other international and supranational organizations on statistically-related activities in their work programmes. Periodic agreements and protocols with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single data bases, work programmes and meeting agendas. Submission to such fora as the plenary session of the CES and the UN Statistical Commission of integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection. Actual demonstration of consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- The CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of sub-programmes 1, 2, 5 and 6 during its 1995/96 term of office (it had dealt with sub-programmes 3 and 4 in its previous term).
- Effective with the February 1996 meeting of the Bureau, the Bureau had at its disposal short Rapporteur reports focusing on strategic issues and concerns, which are a new and important aid to the Bureau in reviewing the planned future statistically-related activities of international organizations that will affect ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Bureau will use these reports to assist it in identifying key issues in each project that warrant being brought to the attention of the plenary session.
- The text on objectives and expected outputs shown above is a new text resulting from the Bureau's 1995/96 in-depth review of sub-programme 1. Project 1.1 is intended to encompass managing multilateral relations among international and supranational statistical organizations.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1996 plenary session:

- To designate the ECE as the Rapporteur for this programme element.
- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the list for the ECE/CES in the "Activities and Means" section below).

Meetings in the next two years:

ECE-OECD-Eurostat: Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annual)

ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Intersecretariat Working Groups.

Rapporteur: To be designated at the 1996 plenary session.

Activities and means in the next two years:

Task Forces engaged in coordination:

The UN Statistical Commission has set up intersecretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)

- a) Task force on national accounts (see project 3.1 in document CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in document CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- c) Task force on trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in document CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- f) Task force on industrial and construction statistics (see project 3.11 in CES/1995/R.10/Add.3).
- g) Task force on the measurement of poverty (see project 4.13 in CES/1995/R.10/Add.4).
- h) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/1995/R.25/Add.5).

Activities of ECE: (CES Priority A)

- a) Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies and others.
- b) Collaborate, with Eurostat and OECD, in organizing annual Joint Programme Review meetings and in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics.
- c) Inventory of international statistical cooperation in the ECE region, for the annual plenary sessions of the Conference.
- d) Coordination of statistical work undertaken by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and/or by ECE Divisions.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

Activities of OECD: The OECD will continue its cooperation with other international institutions, particularly through participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings. Regular contacts will continue with the other major players.

Activities of Eurostat (Theme 05: Institutional relations (part of)):
Eurostat will continue its co-operation with other international institutions, in particular in participation in Joint Programme Reviews. Regular contacts will continue with the other international organisations and major players.

Activities of other organizations:

UN Statistical Division (UNSD): The UNSD is working in collaboration with Eurostat, OECD and other international organizations in promoting improved coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (see text relating to UNSD in project 3.3 (International trade in goods) in document CES/1996/R.10/add.3).

International Monetary Fund (IMF): The IMF's activities concerning the promotion and coordination of international statistical work are organized, to a large extent, around a number of committees and task forces, for which the IMF is convener or in which it participates. The IMF is the convener of the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union, the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, and of the UN Statistical Commission/ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities's Task Force on Finance Statistics. The Steering Committee provides a forum by which international organizations can meet on a regular basis to coordinate their technical assistance plans regarding the countries of the former Soviet Union and share experiences.

The IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics was established in 1992 to oversee the implementation of the recommendations presented in the reports of the two IMF Working Parties (Report on the Measurement of International Capital Flows and Report on the World Current Account Discrepancy), advise the IMF on methodological and compilation issues in the context of balance of payments and international investment position statistics, and foster greater coordination of data collection among countries. Membership of the Committee comprises international organizations (BIS, EMI, Eurostat, IMF and OECD) and interested national statistical offices (currently Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States). A major current task of the committee is to organize a coordinated portfolio investment survey, to take place in December 1997. A Special Task Force on Portfolio Investment was established in 1994 to assist in this project. The Committee and its task force generally meet once or twice a year.

The UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities' Task Force on Finance Statistics was established in 1993, with a mandate to foster coordination and cooperation of data collection and dissemination activities and methodologies developments in the area of financial statistics. Membership of the Task Force comprises interested international organizations (BIS, EMI, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNSD and the World Bank). The Task Force has conducted its work by meetings and correspondence with countries (the last meeting was held in November 1994)

The IMF is a member of the following UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities' task forces: the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts, the Task Force on Merchandise Trade Statistics, the Task Force on Price Statistics, the Task Force on Environment Statistics, and the Task Force on Service Statistics; and also attends meetings organized by EUROSTAT, EMI, and OECD in areas of common concerns.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

The Committee's activities are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the system of national accounts, economic, demographic and

social statistics and processing of data and information of the Commonwealth member countries.

Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. Once finalized, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. The methodological materials are published in the information bulletins issued six times a year for wide application by a variety of users.

Advisory services are provided by CIS STAT free of charge.

1.2 MANAGEMENT AND POLICY ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES

Objectives over the next several years: To review managerial and statistical policy issues at the international, national and regional (subnational) levels of direct concern to Heads of national statistical offices. To enable heads of national statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on matters affecting the organization, management and relations with the outside world of the institutions of which they are in charge; to formulate priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods and to promote their use; to enable heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that are creating pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions. Consideration of issues such as the development strategy of national statistical offices, the overall design and conception of official statistics and professional ethics in statistics. To promote the application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. To monitor the conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources. To promote the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries. To enhance the role that statistics play at the national and international level.

Expected collective output in the next two years: Decisions to the Conference and guidance to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to other international and supranational organizations on statistically-related activities undertaken in their work programmes. Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. Minutes of the major Bureau meetings to be available at the plenary session as room documents. Consider ways of contributing to the application of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and to report periodically to the Economic Commission for Europe on this.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- The CES Bureau has asked Eurostat, OECD and IMF to prepare by 1 August short notes describing how their organizations are using the Fundamental Principles, so that the ECE secretariat can convert them into a draft paper for review by the Bureau at its autumn 1996 meeting. The Bureau will review the draft to determine whether it could serve as a possible basis for discussion of the Principles at the 1997 plenary session and for subsequent reporting to the Economic Commission for Europe.
- The text on objectives and expected outputs shown above is a new text resulting from the Bureau's 1995/96 in-depth review of sub-programme 1. Project 1.2 is intended to encompass managerial and statistical policy issues at the international, national and subnational levels of direct concern to heads of NSOs.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1996 plenary session:

- To select the topic "Impact of information technology developments on statistical operations: Managerial considerations" as the topic of substantive discussion for the 1997 plenary session.
- To hold the 1997 plenary session in Geneva.
- To designate the ECE as the Rapporteur for this programme element.
- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the list for the ECE/CES in the "Activities and Means" section below)

Meetings in the next two years:

ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (June each year, in Geneva)

ECE: 3-4 meetings of the Bureau of the Conference, annually.

ECE: CES Seminar for heads of statistical offices (25-27 September 1996, Lisbon, Portugal)

OECD: Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (June 1996 and 1997)

EUROSTAT: SPC meetings - 4 per year

EUROSTAT: Working party on the annual statistical programme - 1 per year

EUROSTAT: DGINS seminar - 1 per year

EUROSTAT: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees, 2 bureau meetings per year

Rapporteur: To be designated at the 1996 plenary session.

Activities and means in the next two years:

Activities of ECE: (CES Priority A)

- a) Annual meeting of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians
- b) Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statistician, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference.
- c) Consideration at the forty-fifth (1997) plenary session the topic "Impact of information technology developments on statistical operations: Managerial considerations" as the topic for substantive discussion.
- d) Convening of a seminar on "Official Statistics: Past and Future" for heads of statistical offices in September 1996 (Lisbon, Portugal) with five sessions: (i) restructuring the past; (ii) Regions, states and federations - problems of variable geography; (iii) Statistician - A profession?; (iv) Conflicts between innovation and continuity; and (v) Our legacy to future generations.
- e) Preparation of a summary of country reports on the implementation of the Fundamental principles of Official Statistics for the presentation to the Conference (timing to be determined by the CES Bureau).

Secretariat resources: substantial.

Activities of OECD: In view of the extension of membership, there will be an attempt to define minimal and average standards of reporting statistics to OECD. It is planned to lay down these reporting standards in an appropriate form for existing and future member countries. In addition to the possibility of fulfilling the requirements, the ten fundamental

principles of official statistics, adopted by the ECE in 1992, will serve as criteria for assessing the statistical systems of new member countries.

In the context of defining these standards, work has been started to review, in close consultation with member countries, the hitherto implicit statistical policy of OECD and to move towards a more explicit statement of the role of OECD in official statistics. In parallel, the Statistics Directorate has embarked, as part of an overall OECD project for corporate planning, on a strategic planning exercise for the Directorate and for OECD statistics in general.

Activities of Eurostat (Themes 02, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 79: Statistical programme and planning, Institutional Relations (part of), Personnel management and administration (part of), Improvement of the Statistical Infrastructure): Statistical planning and programming activity is centred on the following actions: preparation of the 1998 - 2002 European Union statistical programme (approval by SPC scheduled for end 1996 and Council Decision for end 1997); elaboration of the 1997 work programme, taking into account political, financial as well as respondents' burden and cost-benefits aspects; and organisation of meetings, committees, SPC and DGINS as well as joint SPC/EEA meetings; preparation and management of the working party on the annual statistical programme and of the cost-benefit task force meetings, of a CEIES meeting including sub-committees meetings and bureau meetings. Programming missions with Member States (4-5/year). Presentation of the 1993-1995 evaluation report on the multi-annual statistical programme to the SPC.

A cost/benefit analysis exercise has been initiated. The conclusions of the task force will be implemented. A pragmatic approach will be developed so as to allow the SPC to fix priorities for the work listed in Eurostat's work programme.

Programming of the Corporate Planning actions for 1997 and implementation of the decisions proposed by the various Working Parties in 1995.

Implementation of the detailed work programme drawn up with the aid of a volunteer Member State to assist, with Eurostat, the Greek Statistical Service. Updating of the detailed work programme drawn up by the INE (Portugal) in collaboration with Eurostat.

Adoption by the Council of the Commission Decision on the role of Eurostat within the Commission departments. Monitoring of the negotiations of the IGC (Inter-Governmental Conference) regarding the incorporation of statistics into the Treaties.

Development of a policy for national experts on secondment including the development of a career system, and launch of selection procedures for national experts on secondment, plus career plans, with interested Member States. Implementation of the plan for recruitment of successful competition candidates from the new Member States. Preparation with national statistical services of recruitment competitions for statisticians.

Preparatory work for the removal of all Eurostat services to the Joseph Bech Building in Luxembourg (foreseen for early 1997).

Activities of other organizations:

Council of Europe: Work on the preparation by the "Project Group on Data Protection" of a draft recommendation on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes is continuing. The draft is

being elaborated by a Working Party composed of experts (lawyers and statisticians) designated by Governments, and a limited number of Observers (including Eurostat) participate in its meetings. There is a possibility that the Project Group may approve the text at its June 1996 meeting. If so, the text would then be transmitted to the Steering Committee for Legal Matters, which will meet next in November 1996. However, this timetable may have to be amended because of the newly acquired competence of the European Union in this matter, and the advisability of coordination with it being obtained before the text is submitted to the Steering Committee.

International Monetary Fund: Arising out of the Mexican financial crisis in 1994, and in recognition of unmet user needs for key economic data for emerging capital market countries to be made readily accessible to international users and published on timely basis, the Interim Committee of the IMF's Board of Governors requested IMF to establish standards for the dissemination of economic and financial statistics to the public. At present, a two-tier standard has been proposed -- a more demanding standard to which industrial and capital market countries may voluntarily subscribe, and a general standard, relevant for all countries. These standards will be compatible with requirements for the regular reporting of data to the IMF for the purposes of the continuous surveillance over member countries' economic policies. Both the more demanding and the general standard address coverage, periodicity and timeliness, and monitorable elements concerning access by the public, integrity and quality.

For access by the public, monitorable elements would comprise advance dissemination of release calendars and simultaneous release to all interested parties. For integrity, they would comprise dissemination of the terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including those relating to the confidentiality of individually identifiable information, identification of internal government access to data before release, identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases, and provision of information about revision and advance notice of major changes in methodology. For quality, they would comprise dissemination of documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics, and dissemination of components underlying aggregate series, dissemination within a statistical framework, and/or dissemination of comparisons and reconciliations with related data.

For the more demanding standard, the IMF plans to establish and electronic bulletin board that will provide current information (metadata) on (1) release schedules for data categories comprising the standard, (2) as appropriate, workplans to improve data, and (3) supporting information on integrity and quality. A possible role for the IMF in monitoring observance of the standard is to be determined, as well as the possibility of establishing electronic links between the metadata and the data. There may also be a need for the IMF to offer technical assistance to countries during the transition and start-up periods.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States: Activities will be focused on developing a common statistical methodology for all Commonwealth member countries, establishing a uniform system of statistical indicators based on generally recognized classifications and other statistical standards and compiling systematic statistical information characterizing the socio-economic development and interaction of the States

of the Commonwealth. Consensus and exchange of experience are achieved through ad hoc working groups on particular fields of statistics, consultations and exchange of information and plans, and meetings on subjects and issues of current concern.

1.3 COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN THE ECE REGION

Objectives over the next several years: To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries to countries in transition in the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries in transition in the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries in transition in the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

Expected collective output in the next two years: To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner.

Attention of the conference is drawn to the following:

- In 1996/97 Eurostat will be stepping up its cooperation programme looking into the quality and international comparability dimensions of key economic statistics (e.g. national accounts) of some countries in transition, because it will have to report on this to the European Commission in 1997 for ECO countries which have applied for admission to the EU.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1996 plenary session:

- To designate the ECE as the Rapporteur for this programme element.
- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the list for the ECE/CES in the "Activities and Means" section below)

Meetings in the next two years:

ECE: Training workshops and other activities on selected subjects organized each year for countries in transition under the umbrella of the ECE Statistical Division's UNDP-financed regional project on social and demographic statistics (these meetings and activities are not part of the CES work programme).

EUROSTAT: Working Party and Steering Committee with Countries of Eastern and Central Europe (once a year).

EUROSTAT: Working Party, and Steering Committee with NIS and Mongolia (once a year).

IMF: Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (two to three meetings per year).

IMF: Meeting with countries and international organizations to discuss the further development of the standards and experience during the period of transition.

Rapporteur: To be designated at the 1996 plenary session.

Activities and means in the next two years:

Activities of ECE: (CES Priority A)

- a) Structuring all sub-programmes and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect priority concerns of countries in transition.
- b) Provide assistance and guidance to countries in transition, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics
- c) Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting countries in transition
- d) The ECE secretariat is the executing agency of a three-year (1995-1997) UNDP-financed regional project whose aim is to increase the capacity of NSOs of transition countries to produce reliable, timely and policy-relevant social and demographic statistics. The secretariat is responsible for managing and implementing the project. Work in the project is focused on the following five priority areas: (i) assisting newly-independent states and other interested transition countries to plan and organize their next (2000 round) population census; (ii) assisting them in making much better use of administrative data in the areas of vital statistics, health, education and other fields of statistics; (iii) assisting them to develop an improved capacity for conducting household surveys; (iv) assisting them to develop an improved infrastructure in the field of Information Technology; and (v) assisting them to produce in the near future national statistical compendia which will bring together as much relevant social and demographic data as is available. (These activities are not part of the CES work programme.)

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

Activities of OECD: Cooperates with ECE on data collection from CIT's making short-term data available to ECE. Participates actively in the Steering Committee to coordinate Technical Assistance in statistics to former Soviet Union countries (Ripert Committee).

The OECD is involved in assistance to all transition countries. The assistance is mainly concentrated in the areas of national accounts, price statistics and purchasing power parities, short term economic indicators and business and other tendency surveys. The activities described below apply to all transition countries with some modifications. During 1996 the programmes will be modified for those countries having applied for OECD membership to reflect the advancement in accession to the OECD. The experience gained in these countries will form a very valuable bridge between OECD Member countries and those countries still at an earlier stage of transition.

The statistical offices of the transition countries will continue to require assistance in estimating their national accounts. This will involve regular technical assistance visits by OECD staff and specialists from Member countries, and the organisation of workshops for groups of neighbouring countries to exchange information on problems encountered and solutions adopted. During 1996 emphasis will continue to be placed on ensuring that the compilation of the accounts is incorporated into the regular work schedules of the countries concerned and are not seen any longer as special exercises. Special emphasis will be put on improving the statistical base for national accounts, for example the

coverage of the activities of small private enterprises or improved deflators for the national accounts.

The activity on price statistics is designed to assist the countries in transition to develop price indices that reflect changes in actual market prices. Particular emphasis is placed on price indices for construction and capital equipment within the frame work of EPC, as well as price deflators for the national accounts. Workshops for price statisticians from neighbouring transition countries will be held to exchange information on practical problems of price measurement. By the end of 1995 purchasing power parities (PPPs) for all countries in transition will be available. For Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova the reference year is 1993. For the other eight CIS countries and Russia there is a comparison based on 1994. In 1996 the focus of work will be to develop PPPs on a continuing basis for the countries in transition.

Business tendency surveys covering industry, construction and retail trade are now well established in most CEECs. Data from these surveys are the first new, market-oriented statistics to emerge from the transition countries. Work continues to bring the development of consumer surveys in CEECs to the same point. In 1994 the process of transferring the know-how acquired in CEECs to the NIS started and will continue through 1995 and 1996. Work to utilise the results of tendency surveys in conjunction with other short term indicators to determine leading indicators of economic activity in Poland and Hungary will be extended to other CEECs and Russia. The Secretariat will also continue to provide advice and training in techniques of seasonal adjustment and analysis of time series for a wide range of short-term indicators.

Databases of economic statistics are being maintained and developed on mainframe and micro computers for each of the countries in transition. The databases cover national accounts, detailed results of business tendency surveys and labour force statistics as well as short-term statistics on prices, trade, industrial output, money supply, etc. The databases are regularly updated and the series are made available within and outside the Secretariat via on-line access and diskette as well as in printed publications.

In all these activities there is regular co-ordination and, when appropriate, co-operation with other international organisations. For instance on quarterly national accounts and prices workshops are organised jointly with IMF and on business tendency surveys with Eurostat and the European Commission.

Activities of Eurostat (Theme 90: Co-operation with central and eastern European countries): For the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including the Baltic States, co-operation is financed under the EU/Phare programme. Eurostat is responsible for international co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral programmes in all areas of the statistical system which are run by the EU, EEA-EFTA countries, other members of G24 and international organisations.

The objectives, strategic orientations and priority setting of the 1996-97 technical assistance programme have been set in the text of the Common Declaration that Eurostat signed with seven Central and Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia) in January 1994 and a similar Declaration signed in July 1995 with the Baltic States. These are:

- Enabling the statistical system of the countries concerned to support the decision making and follow-up of policies leading to the introduction of a market economy in democratic societies
- Introduction of statistical standards, classifications and methodologies which are used in the European Union and internationally

- Enabling the statistical system at the moment of accession to supply all statistics to the European Commission in the same way as all the other Member States
- Transmission of the data needed for accession negotiations.

It can be said that while in the recent past the programme emphasis has been mainly on the first objective, that is transferring of statistical know-how, the emphasis for the future is heavily influenced by the clear political direction of accession to the European Union for the majority of the countries in the region. This means that the programme in the future will make convergence with the Union statistical requirements one of its more important priorities.

Specifically, two types of actions will become important.

The launching of a number of pilot projects, that will produce concrete tangible results. The first examples being in the areas of Demography of Newly Created Enterprises, Road Transport and Internal Trade. The objective being not only to transfer significant knowledge, but to start working with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in ways not too different to those of the Member States, while addressing the needs of the Union for data on these highly important topics.

Eurostat also plans to start in 1996 a concerted effort of data collection in these countries. This should allow the full integration of these countries statistics into the European statistical system at the time of accession. Coordination with all the international organisations collecting data already is highly important to avoid unnecessary burden and duplication of effort.

The EU multilateral statistical co-operation with the Newly Independent States (NIS) and Mongolia comes under the EU/Tacis programme. This programme transfers know-how to the recipient statistical services with the support of the statistical institutes of the Member States and, on a fairly limited scale, by means of experts from Eurostat and others institutes and consultancy bodies specialising in statistics.

The main objective of the programme is to help the move for reform in these countries by offering them the benefits of EU experience. While not neglecting the need for a short-term improvement in the statistics needed by the European Union and other international bodies, the Commission is focusing mainly on the long-term development of the statistical systems in these countries.

The programmes is in line with G24 efforts to co-ordinate statistical assistance to the republics of the former Soviet Union. The Commission (Eurostat) has three "focal areas" in its sphere of responsibility for co-ordination: business registers, business statistics and external trade statistics. These fields are especially important for the production of information required by the EU to guide it in drawing up trade and co-operation agreements.

With regard to technical assistance, the usual arrangement is for regular contact between experts in twinned teams. As for training, courses are organised for statisticians and instructors, especially at the training centre which has been set up in Berlin with the organisational and logistic assistance of the Statistisches Bundesamt. In addition, Eurostat intervenes whenever required in response to requests emanating from the statistical services, at senior and/or inter-administrative level, to encourage consideration of the conditions for the construction of a high quality statistical system at a reasonable cost and with an acceptable production schedule. This intervention usually takes the form of "task forces" which bring together experts from the Member States and the various relevant services in the recipient countries.

Eurostat has set up a network of "high-level advisers" to provide a channel for permanent dialogue with the senior levels of the statistical services in the

NIS and Mongolia in order to discuss their difficulties and requirements, as well as to act at the highest level in response to the need to construct a high quality statistical system. The Commission also provides these countries or groups of countries with resident or semi-resident advisers who are responsible for local co-ordination and project support.

Statistical co-operation under the Tacis programme during 1996-97 is focusing more on national priorities, without however neglecting multi-country initiatives. Financing will also be available for the pilot production of new statistics and for their publication and dissemination. Part of the overall budget will be earmarked for the acquisition of equipment (mainly data processing equipment), with the aim of supporting the achievement of the objectives which have been defined for the various projects.

The main themes for the Russian Federation are: business registers, business statistics, external trade, labour force (household) and labour cost (enterprise) surveys, population statistics, R&D and innovation, short-term indicators, publications and public relations. In the case of the other countries Eurostat focal areas will be covered in each country, with economies of scale applied wherever possible. Depending on the country, other areas are added in accordance with the priorities indicated by each country.

Activities of other organizations:

Activities of the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the former Soviet Union: The objectives of the Steering Committee are to improve the coordination of ongoing and planned technical assistance in statistics to FSU countries.

The Steering Committee provides a forum by which international organizations can meet on a regular basis to coordinate their technical assistance plans regarding the FSU countries and share experiences. For this purpose, member organizations are assigned as focal points for the coordination of technical assistance in areas of their concern and expertise, and a database has been established, subsidiary to the OECD's SCCT Register, to facilitate the coordination of their activities as well as, to the extent possible, the programs of bilateral donors. On-line access to the database is available to member of the Steering Committee and to major bilateral donors. Membership of the Steering Committee comprises the statistical offices/departments of the UN, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, EU, OECD, ILO, IMF, FAO, and the World Bank. Secretariat facilities for the Steering Committee are provided by the IMF.

UN Statistical Division (UNSD): The UNSD plans to organize a UNFPA supported training workshop on population censuses in Ashkabat, Turkmenistan in 1996 (possibly March), and a UNFPA supported training workshop on the use of selected software programmes (PopMap, PC-Edit and Xtable) for use in processing census population data (Bucharest, Romania, possibly in May 1996).

The World Bank: Support of restructuring of the statistical systems in the countries in transition funded by loans and grants where appropriate.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): The IMF's technical assistance program in transition countries comprises all areas of macroeconomic statistics as well as systemic advice on the organization of statistics to meet the greatly changed demand for macroeconomic statistics. The means comprise two to three week on-site missions, national and regional seminars, workshops, and training courses at the Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington. In addition,

four resident multitopic IMF statistical advisors have been appointed to transition countries (one for the Baltic republics, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine), and two more are planned (Belarus and Kyrgyzstan). The program covers balance of payments, government finance, and money and banking statistics, prices, external trade, and national accounts statistics. The work on price statistics has focused mainly on the compilation of consumer price indices and, more recently, the development of producer price indices. In Addition, there are plans to establish two resident regional IMF advisors in balance of payments statistics, one for Armenia, Belarus and Georgia, and the other for Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Funding for technical assistance is provided by the IMF's own resources and from outside sources, in particular the UNDP and the Japan Administered Account, a special facility that is financed by the government of Japan, to support technical assistance in IMF member countries.

The ILO: ILO will continue its action aimed at assisting transition countries to produce reliable and consistent labour statistics for policy making and information needs. This will be done by means of direct short-term technical missions, training and through comprehensive externally funded projects. The ILO will continue as member of the Steering Committee on the Coordination of technical assistance to countries of FSU. (It is too early to define the meetings that the ILO will hold during the period.)

1.4 RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE ECE REGION (INCLUDING COUNTRIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION)

Objectives over the next several years: To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries in the ECE region to countries outside the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries outside the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries outside the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

Expected collective output in the next two years: To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner. Periodic consideration by the Bureau of the Conference and by the CES plenary session of ways in which the statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to and /or used by countries outside the ECE region.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- In 1996/97 Eurostat will be stepping up its cooperation programme with Mediterranean countries in the context of the EUROMED cooperation programme of the EU, so that its work with them will be at a comparable level to its ECO cooperation programme.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1996 plenary session:

- To designate the ECE as the Rapporteur for this programme element.
- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the list for the ECE/CES in the "Activities and Means" section below)

Meetings in the next two years:

EUROSTAT: Working party: Statistical co-operation with the developing countries
(11-12 December 1996)

Rapporteur: To be designated at the 1996 plenary session.

Activities and means in the next two years:

Activities of ECE: (CES Priority A)

To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to developing countries (e.g. in fields such as population and housing censuses and environment statistics), through reports prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission and other means.

Secretariat resources: Minimal

Activities of OECD: (Since all work done by OECD relating to countries in other regions is in the field of economic statistics, it is presented under programme element 3.XX in sub-programme 3 (Other work in the field of economic statistics), under the sub-heading "Technical cooperation with developing countries" -- see CES/1996/R.10/Add.3.)

Activities of Eurostat (Theme 49: Statistical co-operation with developing countries): Eurostat will continue promoting the practical and operational application of subsidiarity with the Member States. The aim is to achieve a high level of co-ordination of the measures taken by the various Member States in developing countries and the Commission in order that each reinforces the other and to increase efficiency. The approach adopted is to begin pragmatically with an exchange of information on the various statistical co-operation programmes, then to take case-by-case decisions on the possibility of bi- or multi-lateral joint operations. Management will be exercised by the institution best placed to carry out these functions.

The main priorities will continue to be the training of statisticians, support for external trade statistics (in particular the EUROTRACE project) and support for statistics on food security.

Contacts have been made with China to discuss the possibilities of statistical co-operation with EU.

Eurostat's actions in Latin America now also extend to the Mercosur countries.

The Mediterranean basin represents a priority area of strategic importance and the EU wishes to support the Mediterranean countries in their efforts to transform their region into a zone of peace, stability, prosperity and co-operation, and to this end its willingness to establish a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The intergovernmental conference on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in Barcelona in November 1995 was followed by a statistical Seminar in Valencia in December 1995. At this Seminar the main avenues of statistical co-operation between the statistical systems of the South and East Mediterranean countries and the European Union were discussed. This will lead to the development of co-operation with the following countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, former occupied territories under Palestine jurisdiction, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Malta and Cyprus.

Activities of other organizations:

UN Statistical Division (UNSD): Services of two interregional advisers are available to developing countries. Financial support for the training of statisticians in the form of fellowships is also available on a limited basis.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): The IMF makes available technical assistance to all its developing member countries, mainly in government finance, balance of payments, and money and banking statistics, but also in merchandise trade and price statistics and, to a more limited extent, in national accounts. In all areas, technical assistance takes the form of two to three week on-site missions and in some cases resident IMF statistical advisors have been appointed. Funding for technical assistance is provided by the IMF's own resources and from outside sources, in particular the UNDP and the Japan Administered Account.

The ILO: Senior labour statisticians have been appointed to the ILO's multidisciplinary teams based in Abidjan, Addis Ababa and Bangkok. Their role is to provide technical advice in the field of labour statistics, to advise on the preparation and up-dating of ILO-country objectives, strategies and programmes and related research and analysis, and to give technical advice on the design, implementation and evaluation of projects. Short-term advisory services are also provided by the staff of the Bureau of Statistics. Long-term assistance is provided in the form of projects with external financing, mainly for establishing appropriate infrastructure and for training of national staff.

Council of Europe: On 15-17 October 1996 a Mediterranean conference on population, migration and development, organised by the Council of Europe, will take place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The aim of the Conference is to promote a dialogue between Europe and the States in the South and East of the Mediterranean on highly topical matters: a) demographic trends and their medium and long term consequences; b) migration flows towards Europe, their root causes, their development, and their effects on countries of origin and countries of destination; c) the relationship between economic development and emigration - the role and effectiveness of co-operation and partnership. The Conference will gather a number of demographers, economists, members of parliaments, representatives of local and regional authorities and high-ranking officials from Europe and from countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean (For related types of work see also project 4.11 in document CES/1996/R.10/add.4)

**ANNEX I. Priority Menu of the CES for 1996/97 and 1997/98
in subprogramme 1 (Organization and operation of Statistical Services)**

a) 1996/97

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1996/97			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session 1997
1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes - Prepare Joint Programme Review meeting(s) - Preparation of resource inventory on statistical work in ECE region - Various intersecretariat working groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc. - Eurostat, OECD - All organizations - Various organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Integrated presentation - Report - Inventory
1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of CES plenary session - Organization of substantive discussion - Organization of Bureau meetings - Preparation of Lisbon Seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All international agencies active in the region - - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CES Annual Report - Discussion papers - Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings - Report
1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser - Participate in inter-agency coordination activities - To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP regional project for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc. - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS - UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report, when required - Progress reports, when required - Progress report, when required
1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD, Regional Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress reports, when required

b) 1997/98

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS PRIORITY MENU FOR 1997/98			
Programme element	Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat	Major coordination required	Output for the plenary session 1998
1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes - Prepare Joint Programme Review meeting(s) - Preparation of resource inventory on statistical work in ECE region - Various intersecretariat working groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc. - Eurostat, OECD - All organizations - Various organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Integrated presentation - Report - Inventory
1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of CES plenary session - Organization of substantive discussion - Organization of Bureau meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All international agencies active in the region - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CES Annual Report - Discussion papers - Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings
1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser - Participate in inter-agency coordination activities - To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP regional project for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc. - Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS - UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report, when required - Progress reports, when required - Progress report, when required
1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD, Regional Commissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress reports, when required

**Annex II. Consolidated list of international meetings
in subprogramme 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services)**

	Principal Sponsoring Organization			
	ECE	Eurostat	OECD	Other organizations
1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Programme Review meetings (with Eurostat and OECD) (Annually) - Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intersecretariat Working Group meetings (misc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD (ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities)
1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 45th and 46th sessions of the CES (June 97 & 98) - 4 meetings of the CES Bureau (annually) - Seminar for heads of statistical services (Sept. 1996) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC-DGINS meetings (4 per year) - DGINS seminar (annually) - Working party on the annual statistical programme (annually) - CEIES - 1 plenary, 6 sub-committee, 2 bureau meetings annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual meeting for heads of NSOs held back-to-back with the CES 	
1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings organized by the ECE secretariat for countries in transition under the umbrella of the UNDP-financed project on the development of social statistics (these meetings are not part of the CES work programme). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Group and Steering Committee with countries of Central and Eastern Europe (annually) - Working Group and Steering Committee with NIS and Mongolia (annually) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNSD: Training workshops on population censuses (in Turkmenistan and Romania, 1996) -IMF: Steering Committee on coordination of technical assistance in statistics to the FSU countries (annually);& meetings with countries and internat. orgs on transition experiences.
1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistical cooperation with developing countries - Conference of Mediterranean countries 		