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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of this document and its addenda

1. This integrated presentation of international statistical work includes information on the statistical work to be undertaken in the next two years by all major international and supranational organizations affecting UN/ECE, European Union and OECD member countries. The integrated presentation has become the major tool that the Conference of European Statisticians uses to coordinate international statistical work undertaken by the international organizations that can have an impact on the statistical offices of these countries. To facilitate this coordination, basic information on the planned future statistically-related work of most major international organizations is presented together in the integrated presentation for all fields of statistics covered by the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme, and using the Conference's work programme as the framework for the presentation. The Conference uses the integrated presentation at its plenary session as the basis for the decisions it takes on its own work programme. The decision-making authority of the Conference is restricted to the Conference's own programme of work. However, in the interest of coordination of international statistical work affecting ECE, EU and OECD countries, it also uses the integrated presentation as a basis for providing guidance and advice to other international organizations and to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies on their planned future statistically-related work programmes and calendar of meetings.

Mandate of the Conference

2. The integrated presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives as confirmed by the Conference at its 1993 plenary session, as follows:

- 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;
- 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
- 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.

Background information

3. The integrated presentation contained in this document and in its six addenda provides an overview of the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years by all of the major international organizations that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The organizations concerned include the Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Commission, the OECD, the UN Statistical Division, the ILO, the IMF, Unesco, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT) and other international organizations. The integrated presentation has been prepared for review by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 1996 plenary session, to assist it in carrying out its primary role of coordinating international statistical work that will affect ECE, EU and OECD countries. The integrated presentation also serves as a valuable coordinating tool at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them in deciding on their participation in meetings convened by the various international organizations.

4. This is the fourth integrated presentation that has been prepared for review by the Conference at its annual plenary sessions. (The three earlier presentations were prepared for the Conference's 1993, 1994 and 1995 plenary sessions). It differs from the earlier presentations in that it reflects the developments agreed by the Bureau of the Conference during 1995/96, at the request of the Conference, to further improve both the integrated presentation proper and the procedures that the Conference uses for programming and coordinating international statistical work among these countries. The major innovations introduced by the Bureau during the past year 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 four of the six sub-programmes since the 1995 plenary session (sub-programmes 1, 2, 5 and 6 - see Table 1). This resulted in numerous proposed changes to the objectives and outputs for the projects in each of these sub-programmes. (It is anticipated that in the future the Bureau will conduct similar types of in-depth reviews of three sub-programmes each year, so as to ensure that the entire work programme can be reviewed every two years).
- b) The Conference concluded at its 1995 plenary session that it would be useful for it to ask various international organizations active in the region to serve as "Rapporteurs" for monitoring progress towards the outputs and objectives that have been agreed by countries for each field of statistics, and for highlighting strategic issues in their field of interest that warrant being brought to the attention of the Bureau and the Conference. Rapporteurs (or proposed Rapporteurs) have now been identified for almost all programme elements in the work programme, and the reports they have prepared (see paras 14-15 below) have helped the Bureau to identify several issues which the Bureau considered should be brought to the attention of the plenary session. These issues are summarized briefly in the integrated presentation under the heading "Attention of the Conference is drawn to ..." in the programme elements concerned.
- c) The Bureau also agreed that the wording of many of the objectives and expected outputs of the programme elements in sub-programmes 1, 2, 5 and 6 should be modified, so as to make their intended meaning clearer. All cases of proposed new wording are clearly identified in the addenda of this note.

5. The draft integrated presentation for 1996/97 and 1997/98 (CES/1996/R.10 and addenda 1-7) will be reviewed by the Conference at its 1996 plenary session, and amended subsequent to the plenary session to reflect decisions taken during the meeting.

Structure of the integrated presentation

6. The integrated presentation is divided into six major sub-programmes which comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and these sub-programmes are in turn sub-divided into a total of 46 programme elements (see Table 1).

7. Sub-programme 1 covers issues concerned with the general management of the programme of work of the Conference, issues of statistical policy that are of direct concern to heads of NSOs, and issues such as international coordination, technical assistance in statistics and relations with countries outside the ECE region.

8. Sub-programme 2 deals with substantive cross-cutting issues (including the managerial aspects of such issues) of concern to heads of NSOs, which do not relate to a specific subject-matter field of statistics. The issues dealt with in this sub-programme do not need to be addressed by the Conference at

its plenary sessions or at the CES seminars for heads of statistical services that are convened at five year intervals. 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.

9. The core of the programme lies in the substantive sub-programmes 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social statistics, and environment 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.

10. Sub-programme 6 covers the coordination of international data collection, the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat.

11. The division of these sub-programmes into 46 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 is given in Annex I.

12. 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.

13. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in ECE, EU and OECD countries. The following standard headings are used within each programme element.

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 that the Bureau recommends 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 planned 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).

Functions of Rapporteurs

14. The Conference concluded at its 1995 plenary session 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" for the Conference for work in that field. Rapporteurs were appointed at the 1995 plenary session for most programme elements in sub-programmes 3 and 4, and the Bureau is also recommending to the 1996 plenary session that the Conference ask various international organizations to serve as Rapporteurs for programme elements in the other sub-programmes (see addenda 1, 2 and 5 of this integrated presentation).

15. The Bureau has decided that in the future it should conduct an in-depth review of three sub-programmes each year, so that the entire work programme can be reviewed every two years. It also decided that at its autumn 1996 meeting it should review sub-programmes 1, 2 and 4, and that sub-programmes 3, 5 and 6 should be reviewed at its autumn 1997 meeting. The in-depth reviews at the autumn 1996 meeting of the Bureau will be conducted on the basis of (i) the amended version of the integrated presentation that will be produced after the plenary session to reflect the outcome of the discussion on it that takes place at the plenary session; and (ii) short reports that the Rapporteurs prepare for the Bureau in the fields of statistics in these sub-programmes. The specific functions which the Bureau asks the Rapporteurs to perform on behalf of the Conference are summarized below:

- to report to the Bureau, in short reports that are essentially issue- and strategic-oriented in character, on the extent to which progress is being made collectively by the agencies in meeting the 'objectives' and 'outputs'. (The reports are to be submitted to the Bureau through the Secretary of the Conference, no later than the beginning of September

each year for sub-programmes to be reviewed that year; the Bureau will report to the Conference the following June);

- to keep abreast of the relevant activities that are being undertaken by other relevant agencies, in order to fulfil function (a) above;
- to advise the Bureau, through their candid reports, on how the objectives and outputs might best be achieved;
- 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. 13 above) and to make clearer which organization is responsible for each output indicated; and;
- when deemed appropriate, to identify and include in their reports a small number of key issues concerning ongoing or planned future work in the project which they consider sufficiently important to bring to the attention of the Bureau and of the Conference at its annual plenary session.

Planned future development of the integrated presentation

16. The process of improving the integrated presentation is an on-going one. It will continue with the in-depth reviews of individual sub-programmes that the Bureau will conduct each year.

Other relevant information

17. The list of abbreviations that are used by Eurostat and the OECD in describing their work programmes is given in Annex I.

18. Background information on ECE secretariat resources available to help support the work programme of the Conference is given in Annex II of this note. The Conference may wish to take that information into account when reviewing its draft work programme presented in Addenda 1-7.

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>

**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	Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat)

CEA	[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 INS	National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [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 PME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat) [Petites et moyennes entreprises]
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations]
SPC CPS	Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat) [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, 1996/97 and 1997/98

1. The draft programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 1996/97 and 1997/98 is presented in addenda 1-6 of this note, in conjunction with the planned statistical work programmes of other international and supranational organizations whose work relates to ECE, EU and OECD countries. 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 one of several Principal Subsidiary Bodies 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 Principal Subsidiary Bodies or 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 1996/97 and 1997/98, for the Conference to take into account when deciding on its own work programme.¹

3. In considering its draft programme of work for 1996/97, the Conference may wish to take 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 \$7,273,100 (US\$) for the work of the ECE Statistical Division in the 1996-1997 biennium. Of this sum, more than 98% is spent on staff costs for 34 regular budget posts² in the Statistical Division, and the remaining part is composed of small amounts available for official travel, consultants, equipment and external printing of publications. Of the staff costs, 13 of the 34 posts are intended for work that the Statistical Division performs for other Divisions of the ECE. This refers to the work the Interdivisional Economic Statistics Team does for the Division of Economic Analysis and Projections (6 posts), to the ECE Graphical Design Unit which provides graphics design work for all parts of the ECE (3 posts), and to work done on the production of publications and tabulations for other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (4 posts). The remaining 21 posts are available mainly for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. This resource base is supplemented by 5% of the UNOG (United Nations Office at Geneva) costs apportioned to ECE for conference services, which is absorbed by the Conference of European Statisticians (see the last entry at the end of this para).

- There are an additional six posts in the Statistical Division which for budgetary purposes are shown as part of the "Programme support" (Section 17, part D) of the ECE budget, because those posts are devoted to providing information technology support and services to other parts of the ECE. They do not service the programme of work of the Conference.
- The work of the Conference is also supported by some extra-budgetary funds. In the coming year, this involves funds that are available from the UNDP-financed regional project aimed at assisting 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 three extra-budgetary posts (the senior research officer, the project coordinator and the secretariat/translation assistant) are available to help manage the project.
- Of the 21 secretariat posts available to service the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, approximately:
 - 22% are devoted to sub-programme 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services);
 - 26% are devoted to sub-programme 2 (Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues);
 - 17% are devoted to sub-programme 3 (Economic statistics);
 - 11% are devoted to sub-programme 4 (Social and demographic statistics);
 - 8% are devoted to sub-programme 5 (Environment statistics); and
 - 16% are devoted to sub-programme 6 (Dissemination and support for secretariat activities).
- At the end of March 1996 there were three vacant professional posts and no vacant General Service post in the Statistical Division. None of the three vacant professional is at an advanced stage of staffing. One of them is in the pool of resources which services the Conference of European Statisticians, and it is being used to employ a short-term staff member. Consequently, these vacancies are not having a detrimental effect on the Conference's work programme.
- The number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation used to support work of the Conference of European Statisticians in the past one-year period (i.e. between April 1995 and March 1996), in accordance with Commission decision O (45), was 32. (This amounts to 5% of the total number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation ECE had during this period).

Footnotes

1. Details on the budget of the ECE for the 1997-1998 biennium were taken from the Proposed programme budget for the biennium which were submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session in 1995 (see U.N. Document A/50/6/Rev.1, Volume II, Sections 17 (Subprogramme 3) and 20 (Section B.3, Subprogramme 3)). The proposed budget of ECE shown therein was largely approved at the session, and therefore the information in it provides the Conference with a good indication of the resource base which generally can be expected to be available to the ECE Statistical Division during the biennium.

2. This includes one Regional Adviser post financed from Section 20 of the regular budget (Regular programme of technical cooperation), which is used to provide advisory services to countries in transition in the field of economic statistics. (This post will probably be able to be filled for only part of the 1996-1997 biennium).