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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

**The January 1996 ECE/EUROSTAT Joint Meeting  
of the Working Group on Migration Statistics**

Note by the ECE secretariat

1. The ECE/EUROSTAT joint meeting of the Working Group on Migration statistics was held in Luxembourg from 15-17 January 1996. It was attended by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the United Kingdom. The UN High Commission for Refugees, the Council of Europe, the International Organisation for Migration, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration policies and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development were also represented.
2. The provisional agenda was adopted.
3. Mr. D. Pearce (United Kingdom) was elected to co-chair the meeting with Mr. H. Charlier of Eurostat.
4. The most important subject on the agenda of the meeting from the standpoint of the programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians was the meeting's review of the draft new set of UN recommendations on international migration statistics which was prepared jointly by Eurostat and the UN Statistical Division.
5. The meeting reviewed the preliminary version of the draft new set of UN recommendations on international migration statistics, and agreed that the

following main types of changes should be incorporated into it prior to submitting it to the 1997 session of the UN Statistical Commission:

- i) greater attention should be given to viewing long-term international migration in the broader framework of a statistical description of all travellers from one national territory to another, and to dealing more fully with short-term migration;
- ii) the treatment of return migration, and particularly of persons returning to their country of citizenship to reside on a long-term basis after having lived abroad, should be strengthened; and
- iii) a broader perspective should be used in the draft, in which uses of migration data and user requirements for the data, inter alia, would be incorporated in it.

6. The participants also recommended that numerous other more minor changes be made to the draft. These will be summarized in the more detailed report of the meeting that Eurostat will distribute to the meeting participants by the middle of February 1996.

7. The meeting also concluded that the draft should be revised by a task force consisting of representatives of the UN Statistical Division, Eurostat, the ILO, the OECD and experts from a small number of countries. This task force is expected to complete its work in about six months time, so as to permit the draft new set of recommendations to be processed in time for submitting it to the February 1997 session of the Statistical Commission.

8. The meeting also reviewed and commented on draft proposals for a UN manual on statistics of asylum-seekers and refugees.

#### Future work on migration statistics in the CES work programme

9. The meeting recommended that the Conference convene a work session on migration statistics in 1996/97 as previously planned, but that the meeting should discuss the topics listed below rather than those which had been recommended previously by the February 1993 joint meeting:

- i) Updated progress reports on Eurostat-financed national projects in the field of international migration statistics (reports by EU and EFTA countries);
- ii) Report on the work undertaken by the Task Force on finalizing the draft new set of UN recommendations on international migration statistics (information note by Eurostat and the UNSD);
- iii) Linkages of data from miscellaneous sources to produce longitudinal-type data on different categories of immigrants and emigrants (including register-based approaches of producing longitudinal-type data) (reports by national rapporteurs); and
- iv) usage of censuses and sample surveys to produce social and economic information on international migration (national rapporteurs).