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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
ORGANIZATION**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Meeting on Consumer Price Indices

(Geneva, 3-5 November 1999)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on 3 November 1999 at 10 a.m. *

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Information items:
 - report by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) and the Technical Expert Group for updating the Handbook on CPI (TEG-CPI);
 - report by the Ottawa Group;
 - report by Eurostat;
 - general review of development relating to biases;
 - standard terminology (glossary of items in CPI handbook);
4. Nature of indices (general versus specific indices; cost of living index versus pure price index, etc).

* On 2 November 1999 a special session on CPI for the transition countries will be convened starting at 14.30.

5. Sampling and data collection - outlet and item sampling, use of scanner data, etc.
6. Issues of practical index work (quality adjustment; substitution/replacement/implementation techniques; formal versus pragmatic/traditional approaches; cooperation with private sector, etc.).
7. Quality management (quality control; training; documentation; use of modern technologies).
8. Future work.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

Provisional timetable and notes on the items of the agenda

The meeting on Consumer Price Indices is convened jointly by ECE and ILO pursuant to the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians taken at its forty-sixth plenary session, in May 1998 (see report of the session ECE/CES/54 and CES/1998/R.34/Add.3).

Under items 5-8 only invited papers are listed. Contributed papers submitted by countries and organisations will be introduced and commented on by the discussants.

WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

10:00-10:10 Items 1 and 2

10:10-11:30 Item 3: INFORMATION ITEMS

Information will be provided on the following events and activities:

- Creation of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) and the Technical Expert Group for updating the Handbook on CPI (TEG-CPI)
- Update of the work by the Ottawa Group
- Update of the work by Eurostat
- Planned activities of IWGPS, TEG-CPI and the Ottawa Group
- Other events of interest

11:30-11:50 Coffee break

11:50-12:10 Invited paper 1: General review of development relating to biases in
CPI

Author: Mr. Carl Obst, OECD

12:10-12:20 Discussions

12:20-12:40 Invited paper 2: Glossary of terms in CPI

Author: Mr. Ralph Turvey, consultant to Eurostat

12:40-13:00 Discussions

13:00-15:00 Lunch

Item 4: NATURE OF INDICES (GENERAL VERSUS SPECIFIC INDICES; COST OF
LIVING INDEX VERSUS PURE PRICE INDEX, ETC)

15:00-15:10 Discussant: Mr. Robin Lowe, Canada

15:10-15:40 Invited paper 3: A framework for price statistics

Author: Mr. Kim Zieschang, IMF or ABS

15:40-16:10 Invited paper 4: Cost of living index versus inflation index

Author: Mr. Peter Hill, United Kingdom

16:10-16:30 Coffee/tea break

16:30-18:00 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Item 5: SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

09:30-09:40 Discussant: Mr. Gerry O'Hanlon, Ireland

09:40-10:10 Invited paper 5: Sampling design: geographical localities, outlets,
items, varieties in each outlet, and sampling in time

Author: [to be decided]

10:10-11:00 Discussions

11:00-11:20 Coffee/tea break

11:20-11:30 Discussant: Mr. Gerry O'Hanlon, Ireland

11:30-12:00 Invited paper 6: Issues of price collection: timing, item specification etc.

Author: Mr. Paul Haschka, Austria

12:00-12:30 Invited paper 7: Item sampling and the use of scanner data

Author: Mr. Jan de Haan, Netherlands

12:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:00 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

15:00-15:10 Discussant: Mr. Staffan Wahlström, Sweden

15:10-15:40 Invited paper 8: Statistical sampling errors and non-response; weighting errors including issues of coverage

Author: Mr. Martin Boon, Netherlands

15:40-16:10 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

16:10-16:30 Coffee/tea break

16:30-17:30 Continued discussion - all papers under item 5

FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER

Item 6: ISSUES OF PRACTICAL INDEX WORK

09:30-09:40 Discussant: Mr. Thierry Lacroix, France

09:40-10:10 Invited paper 9: Methods for quality and variety change

Author: Mr. John Greenlees, United States

10:10-10:40 Invited paper 10: Experience of hedonic approaches

Author: Ms. Yrjö Vartia, Finland

10:40-11:00 Coffee/tea break

11:00-11:30 Invited paper 11: How to deal with new products and new outlets

Author: Mr. Bert Balk, Netherlands

11:30-12:30 Discussions and comments on invited and contributed papers

12:30-14:30 Lunch

Item 7: QUALITY MANAGEMENT

14:30-14:40 Discussant: Ms. Zdenka Repotoènik, Slovenia

14:40-15:10 Invited paper 12: Quality control and auditing of CPI
Author: Mr. David Fenwick, United Kingdom

15:10-15:40 Invited paper 13: Training, documentation and use of modern technologies
Author: Mr. Yoel Finkel, Israel

15:40-16:10 Discussions and comments on contributed papers

16:10-16:30 Coffee/tea break

16:30-17:00 Item 8: FUTURE WORK

Based on a proposal of ECE/ILO programme committee the meeting will discuss and agree on future joint ECE/ILO work in consumer price indices. The secretariat will submit proposals on the basis of country suggestions and of the discussions as the meeting proceeds for the approval of the Conference of European Statisticians.

17:00-17:10 Item 9: OTHER BUSINESS

17:10-17:30 Item 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
