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(Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 April 1997)

Note on the items for discussion

Tentative program for Working Group IV

28 April (11:30-12:15)

1. Introduction

- a) What are the reasons for introducing new classification systems:
 - i) Harmonisation with other countries;
 - ii) Modernisation.
- b) Is the approach for activity classifications different from that for commodity classifications?

12:15-13:00

2. Conversion keys/correspondence tables

- a) For what purpose are conversion keys/correspondence tables used?
- b) What level of detail is needed?
- c) Which conversion keys/correspondence tables are available, in particular for international classifications?
- d) Will, during a transition period, structural adaptations such as splits and regroupings in the national nomenclatures make the use of conversion keys and corresponding tables easier.

15:00-15:30

3. **Conversion keys/correspondence tables (continued)**

15:30-16:15

4. **Effects on national accounts/discontinuities**

Can a method as in point 2.c be useful in the calculation of retrospective time series in national accounts and reduce the discontinuities.

16:15-17:00

5. **Effects on businesses answering the queries**

- a) Need to inform businesses about:
 - i) Why the new classification;
 - ii) Links with the old classification.
- b) Will a change in the structure of the national survey sections make it easier to design suitable questionnaires for the respondents.

17:00-17:45

6. **How do survey sections cope with changes in classifications?**

- a) Is it possible to make changes in the national survey sections during a transition period as a preparation for a new classification system;
- b) There will be a considerable increase in the need to checking and editing the incoming data.
- c) How to handle the reclassification of business in the case of a new activity classification and the need for additional information (a special survey?).

17:45-18:00

7. **Summary of the first day**

29 April (10:00-10:30)

8. **Technology and how classification data are stored**

Will the way data are stored have any effect on the possibility of automatic coding.

10:30-11:15

9. **Is there a legal basis?**

- a) Is there a need for a legal basis?

- b) Are there any restrictions connected with the legal basis that will be in conflict with the statistics?
- c) Situation in the European Union and the different European legal frameworks in the field of economic statistics.

11:15-12:15

10. Impact on statistical and administrative systems

- a) To which extent are statistical classifications used in administrative systems?
 - i) Activity classifications;
 - ii) Commodity classifications.
- b) Will it be possible to reduce the impact by using conversion keys between the systems?

12:15-13:00

11. Transition period

- a) Is a transition period needed and how long should it be?
- b) Will a transition period allow better calculations of time series and reduce the discontinuities that will result from a change in the statistical system?

15:00-15:30

12. Availability of data

- a) Are value added figures available?
- b) Can calculations be done from other figures than value added?

15:30-16:00

13. Are new rules being followed?

- a) Can rules be interpreted in different ways?
- b) Which differences are acceptable, or cannot be avoided?

16:00-16:30

14. Summary