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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Forty-ninth plenary session  
(Geneva, 11-13 June 2001)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6  
DISSEMINATION AND SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction**

1. The material presented in this document is part of the “Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work” which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. Information on the Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The Integrated Presentation in its entirety consists of the following documents:

The Integrated Presentation: Introduction and overview (CES/2001/3)

Programme Activity 1: Organisation and Operation of statistical services (CES/2001/3/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues  
(CES/2001/3/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.3)

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<sup>1</sup> The headings within the programme elements have been changed to refer to the headings that are used in the other programme areas of the integrated presentation, but the content of the text under the headings has not yet been altered. The content of the text under the headings in programme area 6 will be aligned in the autumn of 2001, when the Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of programme areas 3, 5 and 6.

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2001/3/Add.6)

2. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared for review at the 11-13 June 2001 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of co-ordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is also used as a valuable tool for co-ordination at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them in deciding on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations. The information presented in this version of the Integrated Presentation will be amended after the plenary session to reflect the decisions that the Conference took in the different work areas during the plenary session, and re-issued as the “post-plenary session” version of the Integrated Presentation.
3. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 6 of the Integrated Presentation which is entitled “Dissemination and support for secretariat activities”, and that is sub-divided into two “programme elements (PE)” or fields of work.

## **6.1 COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DATA COLLECTION**

### **Problem Statement:**

To coordinate policies of the international organizations involved in the collection of national statistical data which are needed for their economic analysis and publications. To make collected data available to national and international statistical agencies in printed or electronic form. To avoid any inefficient duplication in the data collection activities between international organizations, and to ensure that the burden placed on NSOs in responding to international data requests is kept to a minimum. To implement jointly prepared questionnaires in international data collection. To share data stored in statistical databases which are maintained by international organizations. Further improvement in on-line data capture aiming to improve timeliness of data collection.

### **Strategic Medium-Term Goals:**

Issuance of statistical publications and products by all the organizations. Improved procedures and tools for improved data collection coordination.

### **Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:**

In the past few years Internet has been increasingly adopted by many international organisations not only for dissemination purposes but also for data collection. These innovations represent an opportunity to reduce the burden on NSIs. However, in order to take fully advantage of this opportunity, a high level of coordination among international organisations on data collection is required.

### **Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:**

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the “Activities and means” section below).

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:** Not applicable

**Rapporteur:** Not applicable.

**Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:**

**Activities of ECE/CES:**

- a) To collect data for and publish in printed and electronic form "Trends in Europe and North America - the Statistical Yearbook of ECE", and to collect annual data from non-OECD/IEA member countries in the field of energy statistics; to prepare the four quarterly issues of the UN/ECE Statistical Journal; and to prepare the annual statistical-oriented publication "World Industrial Robots".
- b) To prepare, in collaboration with Eurostat, OECD, UNSD and other international organizations, an annual report on joint data collection for submission to the plenary session of the Conference.
- c) Information on ECE's statistical publications is available on the ECE Statistical Division's WWW site: <http://www.unece.org/stats/>

Cross-reference: Ad Hoc publication on Gender Statistics prepared by the ECE Statistical Division and published in June 2000 (See programme element 4.10, CES/2000/26/Add.4).

Secretariat resources: Substantial

**Activities of ECE:**

**Activities of the ECE Economic Analysis Division:**

Statistical data on economic developments in countries in transition and in traditional market economies are collected in cooperation with the Statistical Division and used for the preparation of two issues per year of the Economic Survey of Europe as well as a wide range of reports and studies for special conferences, other UN Departments, etc.

**Activities of the ECE Timber Committee:**

Four organisations – FAO, ECE, Eurostat and ITTO (International tropical Timber Organisation) - work together to collect and disseminate data on production and trade of forest products, through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire. This arrangement has proved very successful, and will be continued. In 2001-2002, the four organisations will concentrate on:

- data validation
- briefing of national correspondents
- refining definitions and procedures
- data handling and presentation (use of website, global forest information system etc.)

**Activities of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements:**

The biennial "Bulletin on Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America" provides statistical data and information for analysing and monitoring housing policy implementation in the ECE region (trilingual: English/French/Russian).

**Activities of the ECE Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development Division:**

- a) Steel: Preparation of two annual publications entitled Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe and Statistics of World Trade in Steel. It is also planned to produce biennial statistics on iron and steel scrap which are collected from countries and published every two years, and quarterly statistics on production and trade in steel products which are distributed on a quarterly basis to users who have requested to receive them.

b) Chemical industry: The Chemical Industry - Annual Review is planned to be published on the basis of statistical and other information provided by member States for all major chemical products and areas. It is also envisaged to continue publication of the Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products.

**Activities of the ECE Transport Division (Inland Transport Committee):**

- a) Publications: (i) CD-Rom of 2000 Census of Motor Traffic (GIS database, Arcview project); (ii) Internet Application of 1995 and 2000 Census of Motor Traffic (using Internet Map Server or a similar software to make data and maps available on-line: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/census95.htm>); (iii) Publication (hard-copy and electronic version) of other areas of statistical data and maps in GIS context, depending on resources available (2001-2003); (iv) Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, which now includes gender-specific employment in the transport sector, 2001 to 2003 editions; (v) Bulletin of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America, 2000 to 2003 editions; (vi) Glossary for Transport Statistics, Third Edition (containing chapters of previous two editions and new chapters on road traffic accidents, urban transport and environmental indicators), expected by end 2001.
- b) The Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics is circulated annually to member Governments, in cooperation with ECMT and Eurostat, and data is published for each organizations member Governments in annual or less frequent publications. In the case of ECE this data is published in the Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS) cited above.
- c) Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America is circulated annually by ECE to its member countries and is currently NOT collected or compiled by a Common Questionnaire, although coordination on road traffic accident terminology has been undertaken recently in a Task Force on Road Traffic Accidents (convened jointly by ECE /ECMT and Eurostat, see above under meetings).
- d) Data collection effort other than for annual publications: 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, to be published on hard-copy, CD-ROM and Internet using GIS application. (2002)

**Activities of OECD:**

The OECD collects data which are further used for a wide variety of publications in print, diskette, CD-ROM and on-line. These are often listed in the integrated presentation under the programme elements concerned. The catalogue of the OECD Online Bookshop is available from:

<http://www.oecd.org>

The OECD will continue its efforts to contribute to reducing the burden on national statistical agencies by further co-ordinating data collection activities across the Organisation and with other international organisations both in terms of content, timing and use of common technology (XML / Gesmes).

**Activities of Eurostat:**

Eurostat works closely with the other international organisations, through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme Review (which consists of ECE, OECD and Eurostat) to ensure good co-ordination of data collection from Member States and the avoidance of duplication in that area. More joint data collection activities are foreseen in the coming years. However these are sometimes hampered by differing standards being used and timetables of the various organisations.

Eurostat's publications catalogue is available on request. The Eurostat web site is at: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>

**Activities of other organizations :**

**UN Statistics Division:**

- a) Implementation of the new questionnaires based on SNA 93 and ESA 95. Since both systems are consistent, an architecture of data sharing among Eurostat, OECD, UNECE and UNSD has been agreed upon, such that each country will receive only one questionnaire. Countries will send the data electronically to one organization identified as focal point for a group of countries but with simultaneous copies to the other organizations interested.
- b) The UNSD coordinates the collection of demographic statistics with the WHO, EUROSTAT, ILO and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to minimize the reporting burden on the national statistical services and to provide as wide a range of users as possible with access to demographic statistics shown in international statistical publications including the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.
- c) Social Indicators and Statistics and Indicators on the World's Women are maintained by the Statistics Division on its Internet site.
- d) UNSD continues the collection, processing and dissemination of global industrial commodity production statistics and maintains the industrial commodity statistics database containing data for about 200 countries and areas and more than 600 commodities. UNSD continues the compilation and publication of index numbers of industrial production. Industrial statistics is published in UNSD's Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, in the UN Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, and in electronic format.
- e) UNSD maintains the most comprehensive database of worldwide energy statistics (production, trade, stock changes, bunkers and consumption) covering more than 200 countries and areas and time series as long as 50 years. The primary source of information is the annual energy questionnaire. Data collection covers non-OECD countries. There is a regular exchange of data between UNSD and IEA/OECD. UNSD publishes the Energy Statistics Yearbook and the biennial Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles.

**UN Population Division:**

- a) Implementation of 2002 Revision of the official United Nations population estimates and projections, including age and sex patterns in mortality, fertility and migration data, for all countries and areas of the world, as well as implementation of the 2003 Revision of the official United Nations estimates and projections of urban and rural areas and major cities. Coordination of activity and timely dissemination of these data through the ACC Sub-committee on Demographic Estimates and Projections (meeting June 2002), for which the Population Division serves as secretariat.
- b) Dissemination of world-wide population information through the expansion of the United Nations Population Division world wide web site (<http://www.un.org/esa/population/>) and the continued development of the POPIN world wide web site (<http://www.popin.org/>).

**United Nations Industrial development Organization (UNIDO):**

- a) With regard to UNIDO country questionnaire, it is expected that requests of national statistical offices for its hard-copy version will gradually diminish as electronic data transmission becomes a common practice. After screening, adjusting and supplementing with UNIDO estimates, the reported data will be stored, as before, in the three respective Industrial Statistics (INDSTAT) Databases in accordance with the individual reporting systems, Rev.2 and Rev.3 of ISIC. However, it is expected that most of regularly reporting countries, both OECD- and non-OECD countries, would have completed a switch over from Rev.2 to Rev.3 of ISIC in their data reporting. This imply that annual update of the INDSTAT database at

the 4-digit level of ISIC(Rev.2) be terminated while that at the 3-digit level of ISIC(Rev.2) would be maintained by incorporating converted data from ISIC(Rev.3) data. Because of the same reason, UNIDO will develop an ISIC(Rev.3) version of its Industrial Demand-Supply Balance (IDSB) Database as the current ISIC(Rev.2) 4-digit version of IDSB would fade away. The organization will continue to update its database on industrial statistics by size of establishment. It is envisaged that a computer-manipulable (or, flexible) metadata system in support of INDSTAT databases be completed by the end of the reference period.

b) The annual time series which UNIDO compiles and disseminates refer to selected key statistics for employment, production and investment, all pertaining to manufacturing and are arranged in accordance with 3- and 4-digit levels of ISIC. The organization will continue to disseminate INDSTAT as well as IDSB databases on CD-ROM.

#### **The ILO:**

a) Data collected by the ILO from national statistical offices and through national statistical publications are made available in both printed and electronic form. For many years monthly and/or quarterly data on employment, unemployment, hours of work, wages and consumer prices have been transmitted each month from the ILO to the Statistics Division of the UN in New York for inclusion in the UN "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics". At the same time these data are sent to the ECE, FAO, IMF, OECD, UNIDO and the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Annual data published in the ILO "Yearbook of Labour Statistics" are also transmitted to the UN Statistics Division for additional dissemination in their "Yearbook", thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of international questionnaires. Employment and unemployment data published in the ILO "Bulletin of Labour Statistics" and its Supplements, are sent regularly to the IMF for publication in their "International Financial Statistics" bulletin.

b) The ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market - available in printed, CD-ROM and Internet versions - provides users access to world-wide data on 20 key labour market indicators from 1980 to the present. Data are collected from the ILO Bureau of Statistics as well as other international statistical repositories.

c) Publication of annual employment and unemployment estimates, initially on paper and diskette but later to be disseminated through our Web site (part of the ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market publication)

d) The ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics and related publications will be more concise and user-friendly, making maximum use of modern technology and available dissemination tools.

e) Publication of "Economically active population 1950-2010" providing estimates and projections of activity rates by sex and age group, and estimates of the distribution of the economically active population by sex and by major sector of economic activity, for each country or territory which had 200,000 inhabitants or more in 1990 (covering Gaza Strip, all newly established countries of the Former Soviet Union as well as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) -- available as a set of diskettes, in ASCII format.

f) MIGRANT's database in cooperation with EUROSTAT.

#### **The World Bank:**

a) The Bank releases two annual publications both in hard copy and on CD-ROM, World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance. The World Bank Atlas is distributed in hard copy. Selected indicators from the World Development Indicators also appear in the World Development Report, the Little Data Book, and the Little Green Data Book (all annual). Selected tables from these

publications are available on the Bank's website: <http://www.worldbank.org/data/>

- b) The Global Development Network (GDN) Initiative is to support and link research and policy institutes involved in the field of development. The GDN Data Initiative will sponsor and provide information about training and other activities to support broader and better use of microdata in macro- and socio-economic research. <http://www.gdnet.org/>
- c) The Gateway initiative is envisioned as a portal website on development issues, from which users will be able to access information, resources, and tools, and into which they will be able to contribute their own knowledge and experience. <http://www.worldbank.org/gateway/>
- d) Data Query offers free access to a segment of the World Development Indicators (WDI) database. This segment includes 54 timeseries indicators for 206 countries and 17 groups, spanning 5 years (1995 to 1999). <http://www.worldbank.org/data/dataquery.html>
- e) The World Bank has ongoing plans for worldwide web-based external debt data collection (Web-DRS).
- f) The Bank will continue maintenance and updating of the four databases on Poverty developed to assist countries in monitoring poverty trends and embarking on strategies to help them reduce poverty. The aim is to help countries reach the Strategy 21 goals of fostering economic well-being and social development.

I. The *Poverty Monitoring Database* provides quick access to comprehensive poverty information. Its main components are: (i) Household surveys, which provide key features and general information on income/consumption surveys conducted recently. The information sheets indicate whether household survey data are available to the general public. Links to the data set are provided when they are available on the web; (ii) Poverty Assessment Summaries conducted by the World Bank since 1993; (iii) Participatory Poverty Assessments, which provide basic information on assessments conducted by the Bank and other institutions.

II. Database on *Household Expenditure and Income Data for Transitional Economies*, developed as part of a project analyzing poverty and social assistance in the transition economies. The data address critical questions, such as the group most likely to be poor, how well social assistance programs reach the most needy, and the kinds of programs that would most effectively reduce poverty.

III. *Data for the Analysis of Poverty Reduction*, which aims to provide support to countries developing poverty reduction strategies. It provides access to a range of cross-country comparable aggregated and disaggregated for poverty diagnostics and monitoring; and classification of indicators and data according to categories of economic opportunities, capabilities, empowerment, and security.

IV. The *Global Poverty Monitoring* database, which provides various poverty and inequality measures made by staff of the World Bank's Research Group. All the estimates are based on primary survey data and regularly updated.

#### **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Databases available to subscribers on CD-ROM relate to the following publications: "International Financial Statistics (IFS)", "International Financial Statistics Yearbook", "Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook BOBSY", "Government Finance Statistics Yearbook" and "Direction of Trade Statistics (DOT)". A windows browser facility was added to these CD-ROMs for IFS recently and will be added for BOPSY and DOT later in 2000.
- b) The IMF has recently put on its Web site the Joint BIS, IMF, OECD, World Bank Statistics on External Debt and further enhancements in coverage and timeliness are envisaged.
- c) The monthly edition of IFS is available to subscribers on the Internet

**WHO Regional Office for Europe:**

The statistical "Health for All" database is updated annually and placed on Internet or, on request, mailed on diskette. An online Internet version is available via the EUPHIN-EAST project. The report on "Health in Europe" is published every three years and also available as a hypertext documents on Internet. Concise standardized descriptions of the health status and health-related situation in a particular country with graphical presentation of data, known as "Highlights on Health", are issued and disseminated as paper copies and as a hypertext document through Internet (<http://www.who.dk/country/country.htm>).

Detailed mortality and population data reported by European Member States are published annually by WHO headquarters as part of the global issue of the World Health Statistics Annual.

**World Trade Organization (WTO):**

As stated under item 3.3, the WTO is primarily a user of other agencies' data. The WTO actively supports ongoing efforts to improve coordination in data collection activities through the Task Force on International Trade Statistics and other bodies.

Priority objectives: To actively contribute to the development of a consistent internationally recognised set of up-to-date international merchandise trade statistics (see Problem Statement under item 3.3).

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

On-going work:

- a) Maintenance and updating the essential data series on agricultural production, trade, supply/utilization accounts, food balance sheets, demographic estimates and projections, macroeconomic aggregates and prices received and paid by farmers. Other time series which will be updated pertain to land use, farm machinery, fertilizer and pesticides statistics.
- b) Together with the database available on Internet ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)), published outputs will continue to include: FAO Production Yearbook (two volumes), Trade Yearbook (two volumes), Fertilizer Yearbook (two volumes), Fertilizer Use by Crops, Producer Prices for Crop and Livestock Productions, FAO Bulletin of Statistics and Food and Agricultural Sector Profiles.
- c) Work will continue on the development dissemination of meta data on crops and livestock which underlies the data disseminated by FAO at [www.fao.org/ES/ESS/stats.htm](http://www.fao.org/ES/ESS/stats.htm).

Priority objective:

- a) To publish the CD-Rom format, FAOSTAT 2000, the database containing all FAO statistics.

New activities to be undertaken:

- b) To develop for dissemination the Trade Database by Origin and Destination.
- c) The FAO questionnaire on agricultural census data will be dispatched to FAO member countries to obtain census results.

**Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):**

It is planned to issue the following publications in 2000-2002: the statistical bulletin "CIS Statistics" (twice monthly); the statistical yearbook "Commonwealth of Independent States" (Russian-English); a short handbook of preliminary statistical results entitled "Commonwealth of Independent States" (Russian-English); and "The Commonwealth of Independent States: a Statistical Portrait" (Russian-English).

In addition to the above publications, the following compendia will be issued in 2001: "Principal macroeconomic indicators of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2000" (Russian-English) and "Foreign trade of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2000" (Russian-



English). All of these publications may be issued both in hard-copy form and on diskette.

**World Tourism Organisation (WTO):**

- a) Yearbook of Tourism Statistics: contains for the last five years data on total arrivals and overnight stays of international inbound tourism with breakdown by country of origin, for almost 200 countries and territories.
- b) Compendium of Tourism Statistics: provides 20 selected indicators (for the last five years) for over 200 countries and territories
- c) Data dissemination in machine-readable form: tourism statistics in Internet and CD-ROM.

**Council of Europe:**

- a) Annual publication of the report "Recent Demographic Developments in Europe" concerning 46 European countries.
- b) Coordination with Eurostat concerning the collection of data from National Statistical Offices is in progress.

**European Central Bank (ECB):**

The statistical work of the ECB, and the requirements for economic statistics outside the area of the ECB's statistical responsibility, are described in two recent ECB publications: "Statistical information collected and compiled by the ESCB" (May 2000); and "Statistical requirements of the ECB in the field of general economic statistics" (August 2000).

**New activities to be undertaken:**

The ECB has established much closer links in statistical matters in 2000 with the accession countries seeking entry to the EU. In the next 2 years the ECB intends to prepare, with the help of statisticians in these countries, manuals of their statistical sources and methods in the areas of money and banking statistics and balance of payments/i.i.p. statistics.

**UNESCO:** The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is tentatively scheduled to relocate to Montreal, Canada, in September 2001. Plans to expand the documentation centre and create a publicly accessible Resource Centre for the Institute are on hold until the move has been completed. Advances have been made however with respect to the electronic dissemination of information through the production of CD-ROMs and the placing of data on the web. The first CD-ROM was produced in 2000 utilising Ivation software and featuring data collected for the Education for All assessment. A second CD-ROM will be produced in 2001 and it will contain data obtained from the first educational survey conducted by the Institute, Survey 2000. CD-ROMs will be produced annually thereafter. In addition, a Statistical Digest and two thematic publications are planned for publication in the Fall of 2001 that will describe the global situation in education and report on topical issues in the field. It is envisaged that an occasional series of technical and methodological publications will be produced but the requisite preparatory work will only begin in Montreal.

## **6.2 OTHER STATISTICALLY-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE ECE SECRETARIAT**

### **Problem Statement:**

For ECE, to collect statistical data and to provide other statistical support needed for the ECE's economic analysis. To develop and maintain a statistical database for this purpose with emphasis on countries under the transition process. To provide statistical services to other ECE divisions. Further develop electronic data interchange between national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat based on international standards developed within the Western European EDIFACT Board.

### **Strategic Medium-Term Goals:**

For ECE, database on macroeconomic data from market economy countries and countries in transition; operational network for EDI collection of macroeconomic data from market economy and transition countries; periodic progress reports to the CES plenary sessions.

**Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:** Nothing

### **Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:**

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See the "Activities and means" section below).

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:** Not applicable

**Rapporteur:** Not applicable.

### **Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:**

#### **Activities of ECE:**

To develop, in full coordination with all existing international macroeconomic data bases, a system for collecting macroeconomic data from transition and market economy countries for the preparation of the two issues of the "Economic Survey of Europe" in a manner which minimizes duplication with other international organizations involved;

To develop and maintain an ECE statistical macroeconomic database on transition and market economy countries, and to make it available to ECE's internal and external users.

**Secretariat resources:** Substantial.

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