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(Paris, 10-12 June 2002)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2002/2003 AND 2003/2004:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

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/2002/3)

Programme Activity 1: Organisation and operation of statistical services (CES/2002/3/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2002/3/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2002/3/Add.3)

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2002/3/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2002/3/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2002/3/Add.6)

2. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared for review at the 10-12 June 2002 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating 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 coordination 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, 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” 1 of the Integrated Presentation which is entitled “Organisation and operation of statistical services”, and that is sub-divided into four “programme elements (PE) ” or fields of work.

PE 1.1

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Title	Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work
1.1	Goal	That multilateral statistical work is consistent, coherent and harmonious in regard to its use of classifications and definitions, publications, work programmes and collection of data.
1.1	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Managing multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices. ◆ Avoidance of duplication in data collection from member countries. ◆ Inconsistency of published data. ◆ Incoherence in the agenda of statistical committees, working parties, task forces and groups. ◆ Need for the adoption of unified work programmes with a consistent view of priorities. ◆ Lack of planning in the approach to co-ordination. ◆ Incoherent definitions of metadata and the dissemination of metadata. ◆ Inconsistency in the definitions and classifications that are used by international organisations. ◆ Possibility of the Conference establishing more interaction with academia, NGOs (e.g. IAOS and ISI), the media and the business community.
1.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Decisions by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to the ECE secretariat on the Conference's own work programme and on the work programme of the ECE's Population Activities Unit, and guidance by the Conference to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to other international and supranational organizations on statistically-related activities in their work programmes. ◆ Reach agreements and protocols with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single databases, work programmes and meeting agendas. ◆ Submit to the plenary session of the CES integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection; make it available to the UNSD for its Integrated Presentation. ◆ Consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices.
1.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ OECD/EU glossary of meta-data terms.
1.1	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing
1.1	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
1.1	Rapporteur	ECE
1.1	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE OECD-Eurostat: Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annual) ◆ ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Inter-secretariat Working Groups.

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Task Forces engaged in coordination	<p>The UN Statistical Commission has set up inter-secretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Task force on national accounts. ◆ Task force on finance statistics. ◆ Task force on international trade statistics. ◆ Task force on services statistics. ◆ Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme. ◆ Task force on environment statistics.
1.1	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies, CIS-STAT and others. ◆ Collaborate, with Eurostat, OECD, and others in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics and in organizing Joint Programme Review meetings periodically to deal with potential problematic issues. ◆ Coordination of statistical work undertaken by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and/or by ECE Divisions. <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial</p>
1.1	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued co-operation with other international institutions, particularly through the participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings and regular contacts with other major players. ◆ Continued participation in technical meetings organised by other international organisations. ◆ Participation in all the Task Forces listed above and convenor of the Task Force on International Trade in Services. ◆ Improved co-ordination of OECD statistical activities, an integrated Statistical Programme of Work has been created for the Organisation. ◆ Establishment of a joint annual work programme with Eurostat to evaluate the most urgent problems and proposed actions. ◆ Participation in the SDMX project (with IMF, ECB, Eurostat, BIS and the UN Statistical Division) to develop common e-standards for collection and sharing of data and metadata. In this framework, a special project has been developed with Eurostat to develop an international glossary of terms used in the definition of metadata. In addition, the first version of a “corporate data glossary” has been developed using definitions of statistical items, concepts and terminology derived from existing international standards. The current version of the dictionary contains about 3500 items and will be published (initially on the Internet) at the beginning of 2002. The glossary could be shared with other international organisations and become a common tool to integrate databases. ◆ Specific initiatives have been undertaken with Eurostat to improve co-ordination in data collection (in particular in areas such as short-term economic statistics and structural business statistics).

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Activities of Eurostat	<p>Ongoing methodological work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eurostat will continue to participate as an active observer in the various international fora for statistics: the annual United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau. ◆ Close links with other international organisations, through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme. ◆ Review 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. ◆ Co-ordination of relations with other OECD countries (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico). ◆ The main purpose of this participation is to ensure that the European Commission's voice is heard during the process of the setting of global standards in statistics and the management of the global statistical system. <p>Priority objective of the methodological work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keep the new improved format of the Integrated Presentation (IP) stable for at least 5 years. ◆ Monitor regularly IP users satisfaction. ◆ Provide a follow-up mechanism of the annual "recommendations of the Conference" and "issues to be brought to the attention of the Conference", that would steer CES members participation.
1.1	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of concepts and methods and improving coordination of programmes of environmental statistics and accounting in cooperation with UNEP, OECD, Eurostat, the World Bank and other international organizations. ◆ Work in the harmonization of international economic and social classifications in cooperation with a broad representation of countries and agencies active in this field. ◆ Serving as a secretariat to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and World Bank) aiming at the coordination of multilateral efforts to support the implementation of the 1993 SNA. ◆ Promotion of multilateral consultations of experts to address critical problems in statistics. In this context UNSD is facilitating the work of so called city-groups i.e. informal consultation groups (see PE 3.XX). ◆ Coordination by UNSD of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (in co-operation with ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD and other international organizations). ◆ Coordination of international indicator activities; preparation of annual reports to the UN Economic and Social Council on the development of basic indicators in the context of follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. In this context UNSD is working closely with the UN Funds and Programmes in the implementation of a basic indicator framework for common country assessment (CCA). UNSD is also establishing a website with metadata pm development indicators produced and disseminated by international organizations.

PE	Heading	Text
1.1	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Convener of the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics. ◆ Chair of the Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics. ◆ Membership in the interagency task forces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (assumed the rotating Chair after the 2001 Statistical Commission meeting); (ii) Task Force on International Trade Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Environment Statistics; (iv) Task Force on Service Statistics; (v) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. ◆ Participation in the management of global statistical system through: (i) the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; (iii) the work of the UN regional commission's statistical activities, including the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau (as an observer); and (iv) special activities such as the PARIS21 Consortium. ◆ Cooperation with BIS (especially on external debt, international reserves, and banking statistics), EUROSTAT, ECB, and OECD in areas of common concern.
1.1	Activities of World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Attends as an observer: (i) sessions of the UN Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; (iii) Conference of European Statisticians; (iv) meetings of other UN regional commissions. ◆ Is a member of interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; (ii) Intersecretariat working group on price statistics; (iii) Inter-agency task force on Finance Statistics. ◆ Participates in the governing body of the PARIS21 consortium. ◆ Manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. ◆ Cooperates with Eurostat, ECE, OECD in areas of common interest.
1.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CIS-STAT activities are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the system of national accounts and economic, demographic and social statistics, and improving methods of processing information from CIS member States. Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. The most important ones are discussed by the Council of Directors of CIS Countries' Statistical Services. Once finalized, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. Methodological and statistical materials are published in the statistical bulletin "CIS Statistics" (issued twice a month) and in compilations, reports, yearbooks and press releases. ◆ The CIS Statistical Committee's web site (http://www.cisstat.com) provides information about the macroeconomic indicators of CIS countries and also posts CIS-STAT press releases. As from 2002 it will include listings of methodological materials prepared by the CIS Statistical Committee. ◆ Advisory services are provided by CIS-STAT free of charge.

PE 1. 2

1.2	Title	Management and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices
1.2	Goal	That relationships among the top management level of the national statistical institutes as well as contact with the management of international statistical organisations be efficient.
1.2	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The role of the different international players, and the different and partial overlap of groups of countries, require special attention. ◆ In addition, as the area of work is rather wide, it is also important to focus and give priority to some specific topics for a certain period of time. ◆ The conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources. ◆ Promotion of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and assessments by the CES of whether they should be revised or updated. ◆ The development strategy of national statistical offices. ◆ The overall design and conception of official statistics. ◆ Professional ethics in statistics. ◆ Promoting the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries. ◆ Enhancing the role and policy relevance of statistics at the national and international level.
1.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. ◆ Formulating priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods, and promoting their use. ◆ Enabling heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that create pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions.
1.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. ◆ Issue a special publication on the 50th anniversary of the CES. ◆ Decisions and guidance from the Conference on international organisations' planned statistical work programmes. ◆ Minutes of the major Bureau meetings, and briefing notes of the meetings of the Conference's parent bodies to be available at the plenary session as room documents. ◆ Substantive papers and in-depth reviews prepared for the plenary sessions on development of international statistical standards and methods and their application in statistical practice. ◆ Provision of examples of the application of the Fundamental Principles and periodic reports on them to the ECE. ◆ Production of questionnaires for the evaluation of data quality in the areas of Socio-demographic and Poverty statistics.
1.2	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The issue of statistical data dissemination policies and practices adopted by the various NSOs and international organisations.
1.2	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below). ◆ The Conference selected the topic "....." as the topic for substantive discussion at the 2003 plenary session. (The Bureau decided at its special ad-hoc meeting held on 4 March in New York to postpone the selection of the topic until after the discussion on the future of the Conference at the June 2002 plenary session).
1.2	Rapporteur	Statistics Norway

1.2	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE: CES Plenary session (June 2002, in Paris) ◆ ECE: CES Plenary session (June 2003) ◆ ECE: Four meetings of the CES Bureau per year ◆ EUROSTAT: Task Force: Financial Partnership with the ESS, 13 September 2002 (+ once a year) ◆ EUROSTAT: 46th Statistical Programme Committee, 18 Sep 2002 ◆ EUROSTAT: DGINS Conference, 19-20 September 2002 ◆ EUROSTAT: 47th Statistical Programme Committee, 21 Nov 2002 ◆ EUROSTAT: 12th CEIES 22 November 2002 ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: ESS Human resource management, 25-26 November 2002 (+ once a year in November) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: ESS Programming and Co-ordination, once a year in June ◆ EUROSTAT: SPC meetings: 4 times a year in March, May, September, November ◆ EUROSTAT: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees (2 meetings each), 3 bureau meetings per year ◆ OECD: Statistical Advisory Group, March 2003 and March 2004 ◆ OECD: High level statistical meeting, June 2002, 2003 and 2004
1.2	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Annual meetings of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. ◆ Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statistician, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference. ◆ Commemoration, at the 2002 plenary session, of the fiftieth anniversary session of the Conference. <p>Secretariat resources: substantial.</p>
1.2	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review and update of the reporting standards in close consultations with member countries and with respect to future member countries ◆ Assessment of the statistical system of new member countries on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the established reporting standards. ◆ In 2001 the Organisation launched a statistics reform, which has been considered by the OECD Council one of the priorities for the Organisation in coming years: coherently, several initiatives have been undertaken to improve the efficiency of statistical activities, the internal co-ordination and the co-operation with national statistical authorities. The OECD established the OECD Statistical Advisory Group (SAG). The Group, created on a voluntary basis, is a forum to debate arguments such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the design and the implementation of the OECD statistics reform; ▪ data and metadata collection and dissemination policies to maximise users' satisfaction and to improve the quality and transparency of OECD statistical outputs; ▪ improvement of the capability of OECD to meet emerging users' needs and to increase the international comparability of statistics; ▪ evaluation of initiatives to improve the co-operation with other international and supranational organisations; ▪ preparation of the high-level OECD statistical meeting. ◆ A high level statistical meeting has been scheduled in June 2002 to discuss the overall strategy for OECD statistics. ◆ Launch of an initiative to create a "corporate quality framework" to assess and improve the quality of data published by the Organisation.
1.2	Activities of Eurostat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eurostat is undergoing a period of very limited budgetary growth. The main consequence of this is to increase efforts to obtain funding from other services of the Commission to undertake statistical work on their behalf. Owing to current Commission practices it is still not entirely clear until a relatively late stage what

		<p>funding will become available; thus planning for work is difficult. Eurostat's programming process now specifies what work will not be able to be undertaken and what work is contingent on funding from other sources being made available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Within Eurostat and the Commission</u>: The resignation of the European Commission early in 1999 and its replacement at the end of the summer was the stimulus for a radical reform of the institution that will last several years. During this time there will be changes to personnel policy and budgetary and financial procedures. ◆ <u>Internal audit</u>: audits of Eurostat's internal control system. The objective of these audits is to improve, if needed, the procedures, the quality of the circulation of information and Eurostat's internal organisation. They support the general Director's annual declaration. ◆ <u>With Eurostat partners outside the institutions</u>: consolidation of the planning cycles for Community work with National systems; full integration of the sectoral discussion fora (working groups, Committees etc.) with the SPC (Statistical Programme Committee) for programme planning and execution; completing the Leadership Groups (LEGs) initiative and proposing the framework for this for the future; establish guidelines for programme and project evaluation and continued work on Cost-benefit analysis. Development of co-operation with regard to training with corresponding departments at the NSIs and at other government departments of Member States. Start rationalising meetings structure (follow-up of TF meetings/SPC recommendations) and improve resultant planning. Continue quality improvements for Member state meetings. ◆ <u>Corporate Planning</u>: follow-up of the adopted Eurostat's revised Corporate Plan 2001-2004 and further development of the Qualistat programme; Support to fully integrated training plan; Process Management methods applied to all critical processes and work on project management; Improving implementation of Unit Development Plans; performance of the EFQM model based on 2001 self-assessment; monitoring and follow-up of office-wide improvement actions; implementation of improvement actions based on results of the analysis of existing sources like quality reports, user surveys or office-wide performance indicators; preparation of the next comprehensive staff opinion survey; rolling reviews in further areas. ◆ <u>Financial and budgetary management</u>: The Commission is changing to a system of strategic programming and activity based budgeting. Together with the effects of the reform process mentioned above, this will have a significant effect on Eurostat's own budgetary procedures. Implementation of financial actions of Reform White Paper, including new workflows and accounting functions. Development and implementation of new grants procedures for partner institutes in Member States. ◆ <u>Human resources management and development</u>: Co-operation between the National Statistical Offices and Eurostat is being extended to human resource management and development, and a Task Force on Human Resources was created. This forum will allow sharing experience on structural and organisational changes, problems stemming from reduction in staff, influence of new technologies on the content and structure of work, as well as on the need for new or transformed staff competencies.
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1.2	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The IMF has developed standards to guide countries in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public. The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the top tier of the IMF's data standards' initiatives, is intended to guide countries that have, or seek access to, international financial markets in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) seeks to guide all member countries in the dissemination of economic, financial, and socio-demographic data to the public and provides a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. Both the SDDS and the GDDS are expected broadly to improve the availability of reliable, timely and comprehensive statistics, and the SDDS is specifically targeted at the improved functioning of financial markets by providing the information that market participants need to price risk better. ◆ The Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) provides metadata describing the data dissemination practices of SDDS subscribers and GDDS participants. The DSBB also provides hyperlinks to national websites of SDDS subscribers that contain the actual data disseminated by countries under the SDDS. In addition, summary methodology statements will continue to be added to the DSBB as they become available for posting. As part of the program to enhance the DSBB, work continued on developing an XML language for the open exchange of statistical data and metadata. ◆ The strengthened SDDS data category for international reserves and foreign currency liquidity became effective at end-March 2000. The transition period for the new data category on external debt will end in March 2003. A data category for public sector external debt has been added to the GDDS.
1.2	Activities of World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Together with the IMF, the World Bank will continue to work on the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) which provides guidelines to the countries in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic data to the public and establishes a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. The World Bank input is developing guidelines for the preparation of metadata covering the following areas: population, education, health, poverty assessment and monitoring. The World Bank, in collaboration with the IMF, will be participating in regional seminars and in preparation of the GDDS metadata for participating countries, as well as providing technical support from headquarters or in the field to staff of member countries participating in the GDDS. ◆ The World Bank will work with the IMF on the Socio-demographic and Poverty modules of the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) to develop questionnaires for evaluation of the quality of data in the above mentioned areas and will participate in the field missions to test the questionnaires. ◆ In the Russian Federation, the following activities will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project: (i) Restructuring and streamlining of functioning of the federal and regional statistical offices, creation of effective mechanism for inter-agency coordination, formalization of the public relations with the users of statistical products. The implementation is expected to start at the beginning of the year 2003; (ii) Development of regulative and legal documents supporting official statistical activities in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and recommendations of international organizations. This includes development and trial-testing of the Federal Law "On Statistics", establishing legal foundations for the organization of statistical works, collection of statistical data, specifying the rights, obligations and responsibilities of legal and physical persons and authorities related to the conduct of statistical works, the rules for the development of official statistical methodology.

1.2	Activities of CIS-STAT	Efforts will be concentrated on international cooperation in such important areas as synchronization of reforms in national statistics, harmonization of statistical methods around classifiers in general use and other statistical standards, and the creation of a Commonwealth-wide information and statistical space. Consensus and exchanges of experience are achieved through ad hoc working groups in particular fields of statistics, consultations and exchanges of information and plans, and meetings on subjects and issues of current interest. Final decisions on current problems are taken by the Board of Directors of CIS Statistical Services, which meets at least twice a year.
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PE 1.3

1.3	Title	Countries in transition in the ECE region
1.3	Goal	That Transition Countries have mature, stable and adequate statistical infrastructure suitable for their needs that they receive advice and assistance from the international statistical community in applying them and that they adhere to international statistical standards and norms
1.3	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries to countries in transition in the ECE region. ◆ The implementation of international standards in countries in transition in the ECE region. ◆ Evaluation, by both recipient and donor countries, of the progress that is being made as a result of technical assistance in assistance given and received. ◆ For EU Candidate Countries, the objective for Technical Assistance is to comply “acquis”. ◆ Trend from co-ordination to co-operation in the CIS area. In practice this means joint ventures, like seminars and other actions.
1.3	Strategic medium-term objectives	<p><u>Strategic Medium-Term Goals :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consolidating the collection of harmonised data for EU negotiations and internal EU purposes (EU applicants). ◆ To ensure that the building of sustainable national statistical systems meet national and international needs and priorities. ◆ To determine to what extent the social sector has been ignored while focus has been on the economic impact of transition. ◆ To ensure that members receive updates on the progress with the CARDS programme (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stability) for the Western Balkans. ◆ To clarify what assistance is to be provided to census operations in the region, and to ensure that support is provided in this area given the vital impact of population data on other statistical estimates. ◆ To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international organisations are carried out in a co-ordinated and efficient manner.
1.3	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Availability of comparable statistics in key areas among EU candidate countries.
1.3	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The investment needed to achieve successfully the accelerated EU enlargement, which foresees the integration of 10 new Member States in 2004. ◆ Further activities to achieve comparability of CIS statistics with the statistical data of the other countries in the region. ◆ Completion of the work on population censuses in the CIS countries.
1.3	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below).
1.3	Rapporteur	ECE

1.3	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Workshop on Financial Accounts for Candidate Countries, July 2002 (+ once a year in June/July) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Policy group on statistical co-operation (Candidate Countries and the Western Balkan), October 2002 (+ once a year in October) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Management Group PHARE, once a year in March ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Management Group on statistical co-operation (Candidate Countries and the Western Balkan), April 2003 (+ once a year in April) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Tacis Steering Group on EU Statistical Co-operation with New Independent States and Mongolia, May 2003, (+ once a year in May) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Policy group Western Balkans (once a year in November) (new) ◆ OECD: Expert Group on the 2003 round of PPP comparisons for CIS countries. (Programme sponsored by OECD: World Bank, CIS and Russian Federation), July 2002
1.3	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Structuring all programme activities and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect priority concerns of countries in transition. ◆ Assistance and guidance to countries in transition, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics and through the regular CES meetings programme. ◆ Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting countries in transition ◆ The ECE Statistical Division is the executing agency for an ECE/UNDP project agreed upon in January 2001. The aim of this project is to assist countries in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to improve the statistics they require for human development reporting and for social planning and policies generally. It covers 2001 and 2002. <p>Secretariat resources: Substantial</p>
1.3	Activities of OECD	<p>Countries covered: Russian Federation, Ukraine, other CIS countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROM, Croatia, Bosnia, Albania.</p> <p>Methods of work: Technical cooperation mainly through regional workshops and training at OECD.</p> <p>Priority areas: national accounts, price statistics and purchasing power parities (PPP), short term economic indicators, non-observed economy and business tendency surveys.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued work to improve the quality of national accounts through better coverage of the "non-observed economy". ◆ Assistance with PPP work to complete the 2000 round of comparisons and to initiate comparisons for 2002/3. ◆ Continued work on enhancement of business tendency surveys in Central and Eastern European Countries. ◆ Work to utilise the results of business tendency surveys in conjunction with other short term indicators to provide composite leading indicators of economic activity. ◆ Collection of short-term economic statistics on non-Member countries for use within OECD and for outside publication. <p>In all these activities there is regular co-ordination with other international organisations.</p>
1.3	Activities of Eurostat	<p>Overall goal</p> <p>Enlargement is one of the Union's major political priorities. The ESS will make further efforts to back this policy by providing constant support to the candidate countries' NSSs in their preparations and by preparing all the statistical evaluations needed for the political decisions.</p> <p>Technical co-operation with non-member countries will be organised differently through the new structures that the Commission is setting up in this area.</p>

		<p><u>Enlargement</u> During 2003-2007 work will concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ consolidating the collection of harmonised data for negotiations and internal EU purposes;◆ continuing assistance to candidate countries and new members to improve their statistical systems to meet Community requirements, including early information about any new Community legislation. <p><u>Western Balkans, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and Mongolia</u> In the context of EU co-operation and development policy, statistical activity in the Western Balkans, the CIS and Mongolia will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ enable national statistical systems to generate and exchange with the EU reliable and up-to-date statistics required for the relevant Community policies;◆ help these countries to develop their national statistical infrastructure as appropriate for their policy requirements and bring their national statistical systems into line with EU and international principles, rules and standards. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u> <u>Preparation of enlargement</u></p> <p>Work related to enlargement will be continuing at high speed in 2002 with all candidate countries in negotiations; statistics as chapter has been temporarily terminated. The continuing objectives within this environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provide easy access to the statistical <i>acquis communautaire</i> and its developments and updates to applicant countries;◆ Examining the compliance of candidate countries with the <i>acquis statistique</i>: this comprises both basic conditions for operating statistics in a democratic market economy and fulfilment of EU regulations on statistics.◆ Regular provision of reports to the Commission and the Council on the compliance of candidate countries in the field of statistics, more detailed reporting in appropriate form to Member States' statistical institutes.◆ Support of the enlargement process with statistical data: this activity will be much in demand with first accessions approaching. Eurostat units have an increasing role in data supply.◆ Support and encouragement of candidate countries to provide statistical services to their national political authorities within their countries. This shall also strengthen the organisation and the standing of the statistical system within candidate countries. <p>Statistical co-operation is an ongoing activity, which has to serve the enlargement priorities. Therefore, strategic programming of co-operation activities and strategic orientation of NSO of candidate countries must be reinforced and oriented towards enlargement.</p> <p>In the year 2002, it is expected that a first group of accession countries be near conclusion of the Accession Treaty, which will have some impact on statistical co-operation and plea for enhanced integration into ESS structures.</p> <p>In 2002, the main key areas of statistics in several candidate countries should be fully comparable to those of Member States. Several ongoing national Phare programmes should provide the required financial resources for this.</p> <p>Preparation work for monitoring compliance of candidate countries with the statistical <i>acquis communautaire</i> shall be a routine operation. The maintenance of a monitoring system including an operational database on compliance of different countries will have become a regular operation.</p> <p><u>Western Balkans, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and Mongolia</u> The following objectives will be pursued at the operational and organisational levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ arranging multi-annual planning by the recipient countries in order to co-ordinate the support provided by all donors;◆ establishing a multi-annual Community programme in conjunction with the relevant Commission Directorates-General;
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1.3	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Technical assistance program in transition countries on macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves, government finance, money and banking statistics, prices, external trade, and quarterly national accounts statistics): (i) two to three week onsite missions; (ii) national and regional seminars, workshops, and training courses (Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington); (iii) services by resident multi-sector IMF statistical advisors (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine).
1.3	Activities of World Bank	The World Bank provides technical assistance on a country-by-country basis in the form of loans and grants. The World Bank programs are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects are aimed to build capacities of the national statistical systems by improving statistical infrastructure, changing the methods and modes of data collection, processing, transmission, sharing and storing, and to allow the countries to produce economic and social indicators needed for policy and poverty alleviation. The World Bank currently has or is preparing projects in the ECE region in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. New projects in several transitional countries may be commenced during the period between July 2002 and June 2004. There are also plans to launch regional technical assistance activities, financed by the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building.

PE 1.4

1.4	Title	Relations with countries outside the ECE region (inc. countries in the Mediterranean region)
1.4	Goal	That Countries outside the ECE region have mature, stable and adequate statistical infrastructure suitable for their needs and adhere to international standards and norms
1.4	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Measurement and monitoring of poverty. ◆ Measurement and monitoring of human rights and good governance. ◆ Implications and consequences of customs union projects in different economic zones. ◆ Transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities. ◆ The creation of solid statistical programmes. ◆ The implementation of international standards in countries outside the ECE region. ◆ Provision of guidance to countries outside the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.
1.4	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner. ◆ Periodic consideration by the Bureau of the Conference and by the CES plenary session of ways in which the statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to and /or used by countries outside the ECE region. ◆ Harmonisation of national accounts and consumer price statistics in ACP countries. ◆ Increased statistical capacity in ACP countries.
1.4	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completion of statistical training for ACP countries (COMSTAT). ◆ Completion of PARSTAT project. ◆ Establishing of an integrated customs and statistical system for foreign trade in ACP countries (COMESA). ◆ Introduction of poverty evaluation system in Bangladesh. ◆ Harmonisation of EU-Chinese bilateral trade statistics. ◆ Harmonisation of EU-Indian bilateral trade statistics. ◆ Harmonisation of national accounts and consumer price indices.
1.4	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	Nothing
1.4	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities of CES" below).
1.4	Rapporteur	ECE

1.4	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EUROSTAT: Task Force: MEDSTAT, 9 - 10 September 2002 (+ 3 times a year in March, April and September) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: Statistical Co-operation with the Developing Countries, 11 – 12 December 2002 (+ once or twice a year) ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: The measurement of Poverty, once a year in April. ◆ EUROSTAT: Working Group: PARIS21, once a year in May. ◆ EUROSTAT: Specialised Task Forces and Seminars ◆ PARIS21 - Regional Workshops worldwide. ◆ PARIS21 - Steering Committee Meeting, 2nd quarter 2002. ◆ PARIS21 - Consortium Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting, 17-18 October 2002 ◆ OECD: 4th joint ADB-OECD-ESCAP Workshop on Business Tendency Surveys and Leading Indicators for countries of the ESCAP region, November 2002. ◆ OECD: 2nd Workshop on Cyclical Analysis and Leading Indicators for countries of the ECLAC region, December 2002
1.4	Activities of CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to developing countries (e.g. in fields such as population and housing censuses and environment statistics), through reports prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission, and other means. ◆ To assist Eurostat in a supportive role in activities it carries out in its MEDSTAT project, particularly in the priority area of international migration statistics (see Activities of Eurostat below).
1.4	Activities of OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Technical co-operation with China, countries of South and South East Asia and large economies in Latin America in national accounts, measurement of the non-observed economy, business tendency surveys, composite leading indicators and price statistics. (Other OECD activities outside the ECE region are described in programme activities 3, 4 and 5). <p><u>Sustainable development indicators:</u></p> <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The OECD will continue to work with the UN, IMF and World Bank to refine the set of 48 indicators agreed for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which include measurable economic, social, environmental and partnership targets. ◆ Further development of environmental de-coupling indicators <p><u>Priority Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To produce an annual report for the UN General Assembly and other bodies showing progress towards the MDGs. <p><u>New activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Working jointly with the UN, World Bank and IMF to use the core set of 21 Indicators of Development Progress, as updated and agreed at a Forum on Development Progress in March 2000, to monitor progress mainly by developing and transition countries towards achieving the international development goals for 2015. The indicators, methodology sheets, progress charts and basic data are published on the web at www.oecd.org/dac/indicators. A joint publication by the four agencies— <i>A Better World for All: Progress towards the International Development Goals</i>—is published annually in June and presented to the G8 summit and UN Economic and Social Council. ◆ The OECD will continue to work with the World Bank and the UN High Commission for Human Rights and UN ECA to establish a set of qualitative indicators to measure "governance" in developing and transition countries. ◆ Collaborate with the World Bank and UN Statistics Division to maintain a website of the latest data on the MDG indicators.
1.4	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall goal</u></p> <p>Technical co-operation with non-member countries will be organised differently through</p>

		<p>the new structures that the Commission is setting up in this area. During 2003-2007, the overall objective is to support the EU external relations policies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ providing statistical technical assistance in order to strengthen statistical capacity in countries benefiting from EU aid;◆ increasing focus on strengthening the measurement and monitoring of poverty;◆ developing approaches and methods for the measurement and monitoring of human rights and good governance. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work</u> Methodological work shall refer mainly to poverty indicators and indicators for good governance and human rights. Other activities aim at the development of tools for identification, programming and monitoring of statistical co-operation activities.</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u> <u>Thematic priorities:</u> Special attention will be paid to training activities and institutional measures to strengthen regional statistical systems and their national components, with a view to including all developments in a long-term perspective and maximising their efficiency. Two aspects of co-operation, namely external trade and social statistics, will be given priority. The former seeks to define the terms of a genuine partnership between countries and zones in trade relations and to establish the necessary bases for the evaluation of the implications and consequences of Customs Union projects in different economic zones. The key role assigned to combating and eradicating poverty will be reflected in the accelerated implementation of the framework programme for the measurement of poverty and the impact of EU co-operation projects in this field. In particular, the results of the pilot projects conducted in two sub-Saharan countries will be extensively discussed and used as basis for the general introduction of an integrated approach to poverty-measurement throughout the region. The work undertaken in 2001 under the guidelines adopted at the Montreux seminar on statistics, democracy and human rights will continue. At a more technical level, definitive solutions will be introduced to end the shortcomings and undue dependence created by the development and maintenance of Eurostat-owned software Eurotrace and the software ERETES, which belongs jointly to Eurostat and INSEE. Lastly, Eurostat will continue to contribute its experience and expertise in statistical programmes for the evaluation and monitoring of regional integration. The following work and activities will be undertaken in the different geographical sectors: <i>Mediterranean countries:</i> Implementation of the MEDSTAT regional programme will continue in the following sub-sectors : Transport (MED-Trans); Tourism (MED-Tour); Migration (MED-Migr); Environment (MED-Env); Foreign trade (MED-Comext); National Accounts (MED-NA) Hidden economy (MED-NOE). All the activities involved, together with the actions relating to training (MED-Training) and the Information System sub-programme (MED-IS), including the « Euro-Mediterranean Statistics » publication, have been reorganised in line with the Directors' Committee recommendations so as to improve the response to user requirements and ensure greater transparency and visibility of programmes. The MEDSTAT2 programme (for which the financing agreement is due to be signed in 2001) has made it possible to initiate new action in the fields of social (employment, gender, poverty, population census, etc.) and agricultural statistics. Action will be taken to promote South/South cooperation, particularly by encouraging a sub-regional approach and the integration of statistical sub-programmes in support of political priorities. Efforts will be made to coordinate bilateral and regional programmes with a view to ensuring greater cohesion between activities. Bilateral programmes will be continued with the PCBS, Libya and Syria and studies will be conducted aimed at the</p>
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implementation of a regional action programme to strengthen the capacity of statistical institutes.

ACP countries: Work on programmes/projects which began in 2001 or earlier will continue in the period 2002 – 2004 in accordance with the timetables drawn up by the respective steering committees. In particular, this will involve completion of the COMSTAT (statistical training for ACP countries) and PARSTAT (meeting the priority statistical requirements of UEMOA multilateral monitoring) programmes. Projects which will continue to be implemented beyond 2002 include COMESA (establishment of an integrated customs and statistical system for foreign trade), the ECOWAS statistical development programme known as ECOSTAT, which is essentially concerned with the harmonisation of national accounts and consumer price statistics, statistical training programmes for the SADC region and East Africa (SADC and EASTP projects), the 'SADC Price' project aimed at the development of comparable SADC consumer price indices, the PALOP project for the improvement of statistical capacity and the adoption of harmonised nomenclatures in Portuguese-speaking African countries, as well as the adoption of the system of national accounts (SNA 93) and harmonised methodologies for business and short-term statistics. National statistical projects are being conducted with Niger, Nigeria, Lesotho, Madagascar and Ivory Coast.

New activities

The evaluation work and identification and feasibility studies conducted in 2001 will probably result in the adoption of financing agreements to be implemented in the following areas in 2002 and 2003:

- ◆ Statistical training : ACP countries
- ◆ Multilateral surveillance statistics : CEMAC countries
- ◆ Statistical planning: UEMOA and SADC countries
- ◆ Agricultural/food-safety statistics: CILSS/UEMOA countries
- ◆ Foreign-trade statistics: UEMOA countries
- ◆ Poverty statistics: ACP countries and regions.
- ◆ Economic, labour force and environmental statistics: CARICOM

Latin America

Mercosur and Chile Region

In 2002, the results of the efforts devoted to co-operation programmes in the fourth EU-Mercosur round of negotiations must be transformed into realities. The political reference framework for these negotiations was the "EU-Mercosur memorandum of understanding concerning multi-annual guidelines for the implementation of Community co-operation". Among the three main areas of co-operation covered, the institutional strengthening of Mercosur provides for statistical action in support of the macro-economic regional co-ordination project.

Furthermore, the EU-Mercosur statistical co-operation programme, which has been in force since the end of 1998 in parallel with a slightly later similar programme involving Chile will be completed. The results of this programme, the overall objective of which was statistical harmonisation between the countries of the region and between Mercosur and the EU, will be analysed with a view to a possible "second phase" directly related to the above-mentioned action.

Andean Community

The current negotiations between the EC and the Secretariat-General of the Andean Community (SGCAN) should lead, in 2002 at the latest, to the signature of a financing agreement for a multi-annual Statistical Cooperation Programme. The general purpose of this programme will be the harmonisation of regional statistics in targeted priority areas to support the ongoing regional integration of the CAN countries. The main focus of the methodological approach will be the institutional strengthening of the regional statistical system.

International Coordination

Coordination with international initiatives in this region will continue. Thus, the

		<p>conclusions of the workshop planned by PARIS21 for the last quarter of 2001 in La Paz will be analysed and their implications for Eurostat will be examined in the context of its responsibilities within the Commission.</p> <p>Asia</p> <p><i>Bangladesh</i></p> <p>The final part of a one-year statistical co-operation project with Bangladesh should lead to institutional strengthening and the introduction of a poverty-evaluation system. Nevertheless, project start-up will depend on a final AIDCO decision concerning signature of the contract by direct agreement with the chosen contractor.</p> <p><i>China</i></p> <p>The year 2002 should see the completion of the statistical co-operation programme with China which began at the end of 1998. The main results expected relate to the harmonisation of bilateral foreign-trade statistics, institutional strengthening of the capacity to assess the labour market and the importance of the informal sector. The adaptation of certain Chinese nomenclatures to international systems is also expected; this should provide an additional instrument of comparison between the Chinese statistical system and international practice.</p> <p><i>India</i></p> <p>Current preparatory work on the EC-India statistical co-operation programme should allow activities to start in 2002. The main part of the programme will involve a harmonisation exercise on bilateral foreign-trade statistics in line with the priorities set by the Commission.</p> <p><i>Pakistan</i></p> <p>The administrative situation is fairly similar to that surrounding the Bangladesh project: The completion in 2002 of an annual statistical co-operation project with Pakistan depends on the expected AIDCO endorsement of the signature of the contract with the chosen contractor following a call for proposals. Nevertheless, differences exist with regard to the objectives of the work which, in this case, essentially concern prices and foreign trade statistics.</p>
1.4	Activities of International Monetary Fund (IMF)	<p>Technical assistance to member countries in the area of government finance, balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves, money and banking statistics, international trade, price statistics, and national accounts. Forms of assistance: (i) two to three week onsite missions; (ii) services of resident IMF statistical advisors (funding through IMF's own resources, UNDP, the Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities – Japan, and other possible sources); (iii) seminars, workshops, and training at the IMF Institute, the Joint Vienna Institute, the Singapore-IMF Regional Training Institute, the Joint African Institute (Abidjan), the Regional Training Program in the United Arab Emirates, and in various host countries.</p> <p>Work under the regional GDDS project for Anglophone African countries, which is being implemented with substantial financial support by the U.K. Department for International Development and in close collaboration with the World Bank, will accelerate in 2002 with a metadata workshop scheduled for late February, followed by an extensive program of technical assistance. Also, the IMF Statistics Department chairs a Task Force on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators under the auspices of Paris21.</p>
1.4	Activities of World Bank	<p>Technical assistance in statistical capacity building, financed by grants and loans, on a country by country basis is planned to be provided in the next two years to Chad, The Gambia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, SADC countries in Africa, regional household survey program MECOVI in Latin America.</p>
1.4	Activities of PARIS21	<p><u>Ongoing work</u></p> <p>Activities planned over the period 2002-2003 comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Developing country based programmes ◆ Organising country and regional workshops and activities ◆ Widening membership participation ◆ Supporting Task Team activities

◆ Organising consortium events

Task Teams Activities

PARIS21 has currently five operational Task Teams that bring together under the leadership of a volunteer convenor, professionals interested in particular aspects of statistical capacity building. These Task Teams provide a working forum for our members from multilateral institutions, Donor Countries and developing partners to explore specific statistical issues and to formulate recommendations, advices and best practices to be adapted to the needs of the developing partners. We provide a brief description of the aims, outcomes and prospects of each of the Task Teams below but more information is available on our website (www.paris21.org)

Advocacy

This Task Team aims to produce material advocating the need for producing and using good statistics as an effective tool to monitor and evaluate poverty reduction strategies and economic development policies. A brochure, poster and web pages have been produced. In the coming year, these need to be refined and translated, provided to countries to tailor to their needs, and distributed through Consortium members with a user guide.

Indicators of Statistical Capacity Building

The objective of the task team is to validate and test indicators for statistical capacity building. In line with the PARIS21 approach to build on existing initiatives, the task team uses the IMF work on data quality as the starting point from which to develop indicators of statistical capacity. The identified indicators will be grouped under six areas: integrity; accessibility; serviceability; methodological soundness; legal and institutional environment; and accuracy and reliability of data sources and statistical techniques.

Strategic Statistical Development Plans

This team examines the theoretical and practical background to producing a Strategic Statistical Development Plan. It collates and disseminates country experiences, studies links between regional and national plans, sectoral and national plans. The Task Team has assembled some material on good practice in strategic planning for statistics that is being shared through the PARIS21 website.

Census

This team is organising specific workshops to raise awareness of census data as the foundation of a good statistical system. It reiterates the value and role of census data in community level statistics. It also examines more effective and efficient methods that will reduce costs for the next census round.

Agricultural & Rural Statistics

This team was reformed during the October 2001 Consortium meeting to bring together FAO and World Bank work to seek to strengthen agricultural and rural statistics as a key tool of poverty reduction. It aims at producing material for the advocacy of more visibility of food, agricultural and rural statistics and the mobilisation of resources to support capacity building. It also provides a forum for an exchange of innovative ideas and assists in identifying areas for methodological research.

The contact person for PARIS21 is now Mr. Antoine Simonpietri, who manages the secretariat in Paris. Antoine.simonpietri@oecd.org