UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/AC.71/2001/4 (SUM)
30 October 2000

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH and
FRENCH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Joint ECE/Eurostat Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Technology
(Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 February 2001)

Topic (i): The impact of data warehousing on the management of statistical offices

NEW ARCHITECTURE FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN EUROSTAT

Submitted by Eurostat [1]

INVITED PAPER

SUMMARY

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   This article provides a summary view of a plan to renovate the architecture of the statistical information systems in Eurostat. The essential reasons for this renovation are the excessive costs of the current methods of producing data, the difficulty of following information through the different stages of processing and the lack of links between the different existing systems. The new architecture will be organised in four separate environments, themselves focused on sets of strategic data corresponding to

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different levels of information processing: raw data received from information providers in the reception environment; harmonised data rounded off in the production environment; aggregated data for communication to the outside world in the reference environment; and products for dissemination in the dissemination environment.

2.   This architecture will gradually be built up around the existing set-up. In order to keep change to the minimum, it is proposed to add an appropriate software layer which will link the different existing systems within the production environment. Likewise, the necessary functions, which are currently encapsulated in specific systems, will gradually be isolated in generic modules (application servers) which can be called up via an appropriate interface. The migration will be a gradual process, made possible by the way in which the architecture has been designed.