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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-eighth plenary session  
(Paris, 13-15 June 2000)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 3  
ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**The format of this integrated presentation**

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international work programmes in the ECE region. That is to say it includes not only the statistical work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also the relevant statistical work carried out in the ECE region by the Commission of the European Communities, OECD, the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ILO, WHO, IMF, the World Trade Organization (ex GATT), the World Bank, The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and many other agencies. The programmes are presented in six separate documents - one for each domain in the Conference's programme of work - as follows:

- Programme Activity 1: Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/2000/26/Add.1)
- Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues  
(CES/2000/26/Add.2)
- Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.3)
- Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.4)
- Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.5)
- Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2000/26/Add.6)

2. The integrated presentation is prepared annually, according to the following timetable:
  - i) December-January: The ECE secretariat obtains information from the other organizations on their programmes of work and prepares a first draft of the integrated presentation for review by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its February meeting of each year.
  - ii) February-May: The integrated presentation is updated and amended to include the Bureau's recommended decisions to the Conference in each field of statistics. This "pre-plenary session version" is presented in draft form for review by the Conference at its annual meeting in June.
  - iii) July-August: The integrated presentation is amended to reflect the decisions taken by the Conference at its May meeting concerning its own work programme. This "post-plenary session version" is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

3. Thus, the material presented in the six documents referred to above contains updated text that organizations supplied to the secretariat for inclusion in this updated version of the integrated presentation which was considered by the Conference at its 2000 plenary session. In addition to providing updated information on the planned future work programmes of the different international organizations in different fields of statistics, it lists numerous decisions that the Conference took in these fields of statistics, and identifies various issues that the Bureau brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

4. Each programme activity is sub-divided into a number of programme elements, and each programme element is described within the following framework:

**OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS:** Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

**EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

**ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING:** List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference decided should be brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 2000 PLENARY SESSION:** List of decisions on its programme of work that the Bureau recommends the Conference to take at the 2000 plenary session.

**MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Sponsoring agency, title, date.

**RAPPORTEUR:** International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

**ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Description of the major activities of agencies in that field from mid-June 2000 to June 2002. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

**List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference**

5. The list of programme elements in the whole programme of work of the Conference is given in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found.

**Other related information**

6. As the Integrated Presentation is being presented in the same format in six separate documents, this explanatory note on the format of the presentation is being reproduced in each of the documents. A separate short document (CES/2000/26) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.

**Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)**

<b>Programme Activity</b>	<b>Programme Element</b>
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> <b>Organization and Operation of statistical services</b> <b>(CES/2000/26/Add.1)</b>	<b>1.1</b> Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work <b>1.2</b> Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices <b>1.3</b> Countries in transition in the ECE region <b>1.4</b> Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> <b>Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues</b> <b>(CES/2000/26/Add.2)</b>	<b>2.1</b> Management of information technology infrastructure <b>2.2</b> Statistical data collection and processing <b>2.3</b> Dissemination and interchange of statistical information <b>2.4</b> Statistical classifications <b>2.5</b> Statistical research and development <b>2.6</b> Geographical and regional data <b>2.7</b> Human resource development <b>2.8</b> Sustainable development indicators <b>NEW</b>
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> <b>Economic statistics</b> <b>(CES/2000/26/Add.3)</b>	<b>3.1</b> Implementation of the system of national accounts <b>3.2</b> Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments <b>3.3</b> International trade in goods <b>3.4</b> Transport and communication statistics <b>3.5</b> Distributive trades <b>3.6</b> International trade in services <b>3.7</b> Tourism <b>3.8</b> Other marketed services, and non-marketed services <b>3.9</b> Price statistics, including purchasing power parities <b>3.10</b> Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics <b>3.11</b> Industrial statistics <b>3.12</b> Energy statistics <b>3.13</b> Science and technology statistics <b>3.14</b> Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics <b>3.XX</b> Other work in the field of economic statistics

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<p><u>Programme Activity 4:</u>  <b>Social and demographic statistics</b>  (CES/2000/26/Add.4)</p> <p><b>New numbering of programme elements to achieve better correspondence to the Programme</b>  <b>Classification of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)</b></p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households) (<i>formerly 4.11</i>)</p> <p><b>4.2a</b> Population and housing censuses (<i>formerly 4.5</i>)</p> <p><b>4.2b</b> Statistics on population groups of special interest (<i>formerly 4.14</i>)</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Human settlements and housing statistics (<i>formerly 4.12</i>)</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Labour statistics (<i>formerly 4.10</i>)</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Education and training statistics (<i>formerly 4.8</i>)</p> <p><b>4.6</b> Culture statistics (<i>formerly 4.9</i>)</p> <p><b>4.7a</b> Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality (<i>formerly 4.13</i>)</p> <p><b>4.7b</b> Social security statistics (<i>new</i>) <b>NEW</b></p> <p><b>4.8</b> Crime and criminal justice statistics (<i>formerly 4.7</i>)</p> <p><b>4.9</b> Health statistics (<i>formerly 4.6</i>)</p> <p><b>4.10</b> Gender statistics (<i>formerly 4.2</i>)</p> <p><b>4.11</b> Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics (<i>formerly 4.xx</i>)</p> <p><b>4.11a</b> Social indicators and frameworks (<i>formerly 4.1</i>)</p> <p><b>4.11b</b> Multi-purpose social surveys (<i>formerly 4.3</i>)</p> <p><b>4.11c</b> Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics (<i>formerly 4.4</i>)</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 5:</u>  <b>Environment statistics</b>  (CES/2000/26/Add.5)</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications  <i>Themes: emissions, waste, land use/cover, etc.</i></p> <p><b>5.2</b> Environmental accounting</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Environmental databases and reporting</p> <p><b>5.4</b> Meteorology statistics <b>NEW</b></p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 6:</u>  <b>Dissemination and support for secretariat activities</b>  (CES/2000/26/Add.6)</p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Coordination of international data collection</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

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**3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To assist in the implementation of the revised SNA/ESA by member countries and to coordinate its consistent application. Major components of this approach include a clear understanding and articulation of the needs of the various countries and their statistical capabilities to respond to such needs. For the OECD countries with the most developed statistical databases, these include a full range of accounts - production accounts, distribution, redistribution and use of income accounts, and accumulation accounts, balance sheets accounts, balance of payments, input-output tables, productivity measures, satellite accounts. A major issue associated with the SNA/ESA implementation in the OECD countries is the length of time series being made available on the new SNA/ESA basis. Some countries have produced time series from only the early 1990s on. However, it is essential to have lengthy time series for some important types of economic analysis, such as productivity change and the behaviour of economies at different stages of the economic cycle. The comprehensiveness of the accounts compiled on the basis of the new SNA/ESA is also quite variable. For the transition economies, improvements in national accounts over the next few years are conditional on the improvement in the basic data underlying them to which priority should be given.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** The OECD has revised three functional classifications - COICOP (household expenditures), COFOG (government expenditures) and COPNI (expenditures of private non-profit institutions). These were published by the OECD in late 1998. They were approved by the 1999 UN Statistical Commission, together with the Classification of the Outlays of Producers by Purpose (COPP). In October 1999, the OECD sent the UNSD a draft of the changes required to Chapter XVIII and Appendix V of SNA93 to take all four of these revised classifications into account. The UNSD has circulated this draft world-wide prior to its submission to the 2000 UN Statistical Commission, which is the final stage of the process required to make revisions to SNA93.

OECD has finished developing a comprehensive glossary of technical terms in the 1993 SNA and the English version of the publication is currently in the process of being printed.

Eurostat has released its manual on quarterly national accounts.

For the ECE, the final report on methods used for estimating capital stock statistics in transition economies will be completed in 2000.

OECD is coordinating work by a number of ECE countries on developing a Handbook on Measuring the Non-observed Economy, which is expected to be used by non-OECD countries as well as Member countries. An initial draft is expected to be available in the first half of 2000, and the handbook is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

UNSD edits, publishes and disseminates worldwide the printed bi-annual ISWGNA information newsletter "SNA News and Notes" in four languages. The electronic formats of the newsletter are also posted in the UNSD web page. It contains information on publications, meetings and seminars; clarifications, interpretations and changes to the 1993 SNA; country experiences in SNA implementation and other relevant information by the ISWGNA.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The importance of countries throughout the region attempting to implement the 1993 revised version of the SNA to the fullest extent practicable.
- The world level of implementation of SNA93 is progressing more slowly than had been hoped. Although there is progress in the ECE region, many countries are falling behind. CITs and some other countries may encounter difficulties in achieving full implementation. It would therefore be helpful if the work involved would be prioritised and if intermediate steps would be defined. ECE, Eurostat and OECD will look into the situation at the expert level and make proposals to the next meeting of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on SNA concerning (a) minimum requirements for implementation of SNA 93; (b) indicators showing whether a country is using SNA 93 or another SNA version; and (c) the quality of national accounts data.
- Concerns about the short length of time series for the SNA93/ESA95-based accounts being made available by a number of countries.
- **Future action in joint data collection (concerns transition economies):** ECE will review the content and frequency of its questionnaire on macro-economic indicators, with a view to streamlining and reducing the burden on CIS STAT and NSO's who respond directly.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below).

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

ECE Special session on National Accounts for transition economies, Paris, autumn 2000

Joint ECE - CIS-STAT - OECD Workshop on National Accounts, spring 2001

ECE Special session on National Accounts for transition economies, Paris, autumn 2001

ECE-Eurostat-OECD Joint meeting on National Accounts, spring 2002

OECD: Meeting on National Accounts, 26-29 September 2000

ISWGNA: Working group meetings, 21-22 September 2000 and spring 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: National Accounts, 17-19 October 2000

Eurostat: GNP Management Committee, 7-8 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: National Accounts, 12 December 2000

**Rapporteur:** OECD

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Task Force on National Accounts:** The Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) is the convener of a Task Force on National Accounts. The ISWGNA which consists of the UN secretariat, represented by UNSD and the Regional Commissions (ECE, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP), Eurostat, IMF, OECD and the World Bank meets twice a year to coordinate issues related to the implementation of the 1993 SNA. The Working Group has a rotating chair, that changes in March of each year right after the Statistical Commission session. The UNSD acts as permanent Secretariat of the Working Group.

The ISWGNA has also been entrusted by the Statistical Commission with keeping the 1993 SNA up-to-date according to a well-defined process endorsed by the Statistical Commission. At present, two concrete proposals for updates are being considered by the ISWGNA, i.e. on the treatment of financial derivatives and the revision of chapter 18 relating to functional classifications.

Regarding further proposals on methodological revisions, the ISWGNA has created three electronic discussion groups, in order to engage experts around the world in a broadly based debate.

**Activities of ECE:**

- (a) During 2000, the ECE will finalize its project on methods used for measuring capital stocks in selected transition economies. The objective is to try to recommend improved methods of estimation which could be of benefit to a wider group of countries with similar data collection systems, and in particular to study how to reconcile and integrate data from regular surveys of assets with estimates built up by the perpetual inventory method (PIM).
- (b) A pilot study on measuring service lives of selected machinery will also be undertaken.
- (c) In conjunction with the OECD's autumn 2000 meeting on national accounts, the ECE will organise a session devoted to issues of specific concern to countries in transition.
- (d) Joint ECE - CIS-STAT - OECD Workshop on National Accounts, spring 2001.
- (e) In conjunction with the OECD's autumn 2001 meeting on national accounts, the ECE will organise a session devoted to issues of specific concern to countries in transition.
- (f) ECE-Eurostat-OECD joint meeting on national accounts, spring 2002 to consider the following substantive topics: (i) Policy uses of national accounts; (ii) Quality and reliability of national accounts; (iii) Implications of the new handbooks on CPI and PPI on national accounts; (iv) Quarterly national accounts (consistency of time series, seasonal adjustments, early estimates); (v) Supply and use tables: practical application; (vi) Capital investment (including software); and (vii) Price and volume measures of services.
- (g) ECE and other interested organizations to undertake surveys on (i) Methods used for producing early (advance) statistical estimates; (ii) Best practices in estimating service lives of fixed assets; and (iii) Update the volume on Inventory of National Practices in Estimating Hidden and Informal Economic Activities for National Accounts published by the ECE secretariat in 1993.

**Activities of OECD:** Collects quarterly national accounts on countries' own definitions and classifications, and standardised annual national accounts on an SNA basis and detailed annual national accounts by activity. The first set of data is used intensively by economic analysts and forecasters in the OECD Secretariat. The second set is collected jointly with UNSD and Eurostat. The third set is for industrial analysis. In 1998 revised functional classifications (COICOP, COFOG and COPNI) were finalised and development work was started on satellite accounts for household production.

Publishes handbooks, manuals and technical guides on methodological aspects of national accounting. Publications have recently been issued on the methodology of the OECD-Eurostat PPP comparison and a Glossary of Terms in the 1993 SNA.

In the period up to the end of 2000, OECD work will concentrate on the progressive implementation by Member countries of the new features of the 1993 SNA. In priority order these are the new sector accounts, the balance sheets and the full set of accumulation accounts including revaluation accounts. With regard to the balance sheets, OECD will pay particular attention to the proper measurement of levels of and changes to non-produced assets, including sub-soil assets. OECD will develop a new national accounts by activity database.

Work on short-term economic statistics collected from non-Member countries is described in 1.3 and 3.XX.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 40 - Annual Economic Accounts, 41 - Quarterly and environmental accounts (411), 43 - Monitoring of own resources*):

Eurostat will continue to assist not only Member States but also candidate countries in the implementation of ESA-95. This mainly methodological work is driven by Eurostat's objective to increase the quality of national accounts, most notably to assure comparability and exhaustiveness. Assistance will also be given to users of national accounts, as they have to be made aware of the methodological change.

As a result of switching from development to production mode in national accounts after the first major steps for changing from ESA-79 to ESA-95 have been mastered, speed will be greater and productivity enhanced as far as both the transmission and processing of data, as well as the compilation of the final accounts, are concerned. The same applies also to distribution and publication activities (e.g. Statistics in



Focus, Accounts of the Union). At the same time, however, discussions with Member States about the data delivery programme for national accounts will have to start in anticipation of changes implied by the ESA regulation for 2003.

Enhancement of national accounts will equally continue, mainly through a LEG on Social Accounting Matrices, but also through studying the feasibility of FISIM allocations. Moreover, national accountants will improve their own contribution to the set of euro-indicators (estimation quality, coverage, and timeliness). For this they will above all conduct an in-depth analysis of short-term phenomena. They are thereby aiming at identifying and compiling indicators with prognostic capabilities. Because of all these improvements it will be possible to render a high-quality service for national accounts users, be they policy makers, policy observers or others interested in national accounts.

**Quarterly accounts:** Work on the implementation of both ESA-95 rules for quarterly accounts and the harmonised concepts proposed by the quarterly accounts manual will continue. Additional attention will be given to the improvement of practices concerning EUR-11 and EUR-15 estimations. Speed will be increased and productivity enhanced as far as the transmission and processing of data as well as the compilation of the final accounts are concerned. Moreover, the contribution to the euro-indicators will be substantially improved: better estimation quality, faster distribution, enlarged coverage. All these improvements will be made in order to render a high-quality service for users, be they policy makers, policy observers or others interested in quarterly accounts and related statistics. Flash estimation techniques in the realm of quarterly accounts have to be improved sooner or later, too. For this, additional methodological research is indispensable in view of the complexity of the problem at hand. Such research, however, can be undertaken only if adequately funded (e.g. through the EU research programme).

**Gross National Product:** Gross national product is rapidly becoming a more and more important element for calculating contributions to the budget of the EU. Eurostat with the Member States in the GNP committee must therefore continue to work actively to ensure a high degree of reliability, comparability and completeness. From October 1999 onwards, GNP on the basis of ESA-79 will be used for the purposes of the fourth resource but will be derived from data compiled according to ESA-95, focusing above all on the conceptual differences for the main aggregates. That necessitates a thorough review of the sources and methods used by countries to compile their data for ESA-95. This review will be based on the inventories, already begun in 1999 but finished in 2000, and on bilateral visits. This might lead to considering a further harmonisation of sources and methods as well as a coordinated revision strategy. Eurostat is also preparing the data necessary for implementing the Stability and Growth Pact, in particular the calculation of GDP in terms of volume according to a harmonised methodology.

**Value-Added-Tax clearance:** Proposals now being considered for a final VAT system allow a single place of taxation for each Community operator. A macroeconomic clearing system is envisaged to redistribute VAT from the country of declaration to the Member State where the goods and services are consumed. Such a clearing system would require statistics of a very high level of comparability and reliability, including data on national accounts, consumption, production and trade. Eurostat will follow this issue closely and coordinate, if need be, the preparations for such a system, but both the Taxation and Customs Union DG and the NSIs will clearly be very closely involved.

**Other Activities of the European Commission:** The VAT third resource uses macroeconomic calculations to adjust for differences between the various national VAT systems and the standardised common VAT base.

Eurostat will continue to contribute national accounting expertise to the control visits led by the Budget DG to verify countries' declarations.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

##### **UN Statistics Division:**

(a) Preparation of annual SNA milestone assessments and analysis for all regions in the world. The present 6 milestones formulated by the ISWGNA and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission capture only one

dimension of the implementation of the 1993 SNA, that is the coverage in terms of accounts and tables. The ISWGNA will study in 2000 the feasibility of refining the milestone system so as to incorporate other important dimensions in evaluating the implementation of the 1993 SNA, such as concepts and classifications used, and basic data quality.

(b) Preparation of a technical report on a practical introduction to the compilation of the 1993 SNA for publication in 2000.

(c) Organization of a UN Expert Group Meeting on Non-profit institutions (NPIs) in joint cooperation with John Hopkins University, in New York, November 2000 to review and discuss the publication of a handbook on this topic in 2001 as part of the UN handbook series on the 1993 SNA.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF):** The IMF conducts two-to three week on-site missions to its member countries to help establish work plans in developing national accounts. To facilitate the development of timely reporting, a particular emphasis in the programs for transition economies is the development of a database and estimation techniques to calculate quarterly national accounts estimates. The IMF also conducts training courses on the 1993 SNA at the IMF Institute in Washington (in English) and at the Joint Vienna Institute (in Russian).

**Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics ("Canberra Group"):** The objective of the expert group is to produce a handbook on capital stocks and flows measurement which will cover both conceptual issues and best practices in compilation of capital stocks and flows statistics. The handbook is currently being redrafted and it is expected that it will be published by OECD in the second half of 2000. As a by-product of this work, valuable suggestions for revisions to, and the further elaboration and development of, SNA93 have been identified and will be forwarded to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for consideration. The Group will be maintaining its electronic discussion database, but at this stage no further meetings of the Group have been scheduled. (Contact persons: Mr. Rob Edwards, Australian Bureau of Statistics, PO Box 10 Belconnen, ACT, 2616 Australia, tel. +61 2 6252 6035, fax +61 2 6253 1051, e-mail: rob.edwards@abs.gov.au; and Mr. Derek Blades, OECD, 2 rue André Pascal, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16, France, tel. +31 1 4524 8819, fax +31 1 4524 1713, e-mail: derek.blades@oecd.org).

**Electronic Discussion Group on the costs incurred in transferring the ownership of assets:** At a national accounts meeting in Bangkok in May 1998, the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDOS) presented a paper on the treatment of the costs incurred in transferring ownership of assets (buildings etc). It described some problems that arose in implementing the treatment recommended by SNA93. The ISWGNA has discussed the issues raised in the SDOS paper and considers that they are worthy of further discussion. As part of the consultation process, the OECD set up a page on its national accounts internet site to present the issues to a broad audience and to obtain feedback from interested national accountants. The papers submitted on this topic can be accessed by clicking on the "Papers under discussion" button at "<http://www.oecd.org/std/nahome.htm>".

**Expert Group on Intangibles:** The 1993 SNA suggests intangible assets should be included alongside tangible assets but because this is a new field for most national accountants, more specific guidance, of the type to be found in a handbook, would be helpful. Work going on in OECD related to the Frascati family of manuals on research and development, to other intangibles (training and human resources, organisational change, for example) and to "new science and technology indicators" (estimation of the value of innovation for example) is highly relevant. The Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) has recently made available a set of 15 papers and a detailed bibliography which summarises the evolution of the various strands of this work over several years on a web site for general access.

(<http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/industry/indcomp/prod/intang.htm>). DSTI in conjunction with the Directorate for Education, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs and in cooperation with the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Nordic Industrial Fund, organised

an International Symposium on "Measuring and Reporting Intellectual Capital: Experience, Issues and Prospects", Amsterdam 9-11 June 1999. The papers for this meeting and the results from it are available at <http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/industry/indcomp/act/ams-conf/symposium.htm> (Contact persons: In DSTI: Graham.Vickery@oecg.org and Michael.Freundenberg@oecd.org; in the Statistics Directorate: Janice.Owens@oecd.org).

**The Delhi Group on informal sector statistics:** Pursuant to the recommendations of the third meeting, work of the Delhi Group on the following projects is in progress: (i) results of the surveys on the informal sector conducted by different countries may be discussed as the main topic of the next meeting with a view to recommending survey methodologies for the collection of data on various aspects of the informal sector and improving data quality including reduction of non-sampling errors; the project leader will be the ILO; (ii) the Group will investigate and develop an appropriate methodology to develop more accurate measures of value added; project members include, among other countries, Armenia and Turkey, as well as UNSD; (iii) following the definition of informal sector as proposed, an attempt should be made to estimate the contribution of the informal sector to gross domestic product (GDP) on a regular basis; participants in the project are France and India; (iv) develop strategies to address sample frame and weighting issues; (v) the advantage and limitation of different survey methods and sample design for collection of data on the informal sector; (vi) the Delhi Group should formulate recommendations regarding the identification of precarious forms of employment (including outwork/home-work) inside and outside informal sector and submit them to the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation for its consideration.

The next meeting of the Delhi Group will be held in July or August 2000 in Geneva (ILO) or Nigeria. Contact person: Mr. Shri R.S. Mathur, Secretary, Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001, India (tel. 91-11-373-2150).

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** For the period 2000-2002, the principal activities relating to the system of national accounts are: (1) Elaboration of methodological recommendations for the Commonwealth countries' statistical services regarding improved evaluation of the gross domestic product in constant prices, of the unobserved economy and of financial intermediation services indirectly measured, and compilation of accounts for the institutional sectors of the economy; (2) Collection, analysis and dissemination of data concerning the main macroeconomic indicators elaborated on the basis of SNA 1993 concepts; (3) Assistance to member countries in improving methods of defining and reflecting in their national accounts economic processes and phenomena of relevance to CIS countries.

### 3.2 MONEY AND BANKING, GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

**Objectives over the next several years:** Change in the areas covered by finance statistics - especially in monetary and financial statistics - has been especially rapid. Of particular note is the globalization of financial markets and the discussions at the highest political levels of how to put in place an international financial architecture that will enhance and spread the benefits of globalization while minimizing its risks.

Dissemination of data and metadata in finance statistics is especially challenging in part because, first, the use of data for monetary policy puts a high premium on timeliness of dissemination and, second, because the increasing extent to which data and metadata are needed beyond the national boundaries puts a high premium on rapid and user-friendly modes of distribution.

Data quality is an especially important and/or difficult issue in areas of statistics that are, inter alia, derived from multiple sets of source data; are relatively newly developed and thus less familiar to users; and are used for policy and operational purposes. Several of the sets of finance statistics meet one or more of these criteria.

Work in the fields of balance of payments, international investment position (IIP), government finance, and money and banking statistics is related to work undertaken in programme element 3.1 on the implementation of the SNA. In each of these special fields, the work is being undertaken with a view to harmonization to the greatest extent possible with the 1993 SNA, including its interpretation, extension, and modification as required by changing circumstances and policy needs. In addition, work in each area involves efforts at improved dissemination and shedding more light on and improving data quality.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** The IMF Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual will be published in 2000. The Manual applies SNA standards to the preparation of statistics on money, credit, and other financial activity. The development of the Manual parallels the work now underway in EU countries to prepare monetary statistics under unified standards based on the ESA 95. The Fund is also engaged in a similar endeavour to develop a revised Government Finance Statistics Manual. A complete draft is expected to be available for review by countries in 1999. A database consistent with these methodologies will also be established. Collection of monetary statistics in accordance with the standards in the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and the EMU monetary statistics program will begin.

A database has already been established in balance of payments statistics consistent with the fifth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments Statistics Manual. In support of efforts to implement the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual, the IMF publishes an annual report of its Balance of Payments Committee and a twice yearly Newsletter on Balance of Payments Statistics.

For Eurostat, a database will be developed consistent with the regulations established by the Council of Ministers on the procedures and statistical definitions which are to be transmitted for the excessive deficit procedure and a manual on the Community methodology for the calculation of BoP will be produced.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection: UNCTAD and Eurostat will endeavour to resolve the issue during the course of 2000, subject to resource constraints.
- Two activities that the Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics have had recommended be undertaken: a) the Joint BIS IMF, OECD and World Bank Statistics on External Debt, which have been published on the websites of the participating organizations since March 1999, will be further enhanced; and b) a new Manual, External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users, will be published jointly by the members of the Task Force.
- The considerable progress in this area was noted by the Conference.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Working Party of Financial Statisticians (2000)

OECD: Working Group on Insurance Statistics (ad hoc meetings, as required)

OECD: Working Party No. 2 on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs (27-29 November 2000)

OECD: Working Party No. 2 on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs (May 2001)

Eurostat: Working Group: Financial Accounts, 19-20 October 2000

**Rapporteur:** International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Task Force on Finance Statistics:** In 1993, the UN Statistical Commission/ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities' Task Force on Finance Statistics was established, with a mandate to

foster coordination and cooperation of data collection and dissemination activities and methodological developments in the area of financial statistics. The Fund has acted as convener for this task force. The Task Force has held several meetings since 1998 to address issues concerning the adequacy of data for international reserves and external debt that emerged in the wake of the Asian financial crisis. The Task Force will be focussing especially on the preparation of the new publication, External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users, and on enhancing the Joint BIS, IMF, OECD, World Bank Statistics on External Debt.

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:**

- a) **Financial statistics:** (i) Databases on: financial accounts; foreign direct investment (FDI flows and positions); institutional saving and investment (to be expanded to include statistics on pension schemes); privatisation; bank profitability -- financial statements of banks; insurance statistics of which the coverage will be extended to include claims, commissions and expenses. (ii) Joint survey with IMF on the implementation of methodological standards of foreign direct investment aiming to assess the implementation of recommendations included in the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, 3rd edition and IMF Balance of Payments Manual, 5th edition. (iii) Task Force on Global Financial Markets Statistics to survey additional statistical requirements for analysing the performance of financial markets within the globalisation context. (iv) Task Force on Funded Pension Statistics was created to propose common definitions and methodology for data collection on funded pension schemes. (v) Inventory of financial statistics compiled by international organisations. (vi) Revising the OECD financial accounts series according to SNA 93 and ESA 95. (vii) Compilation of statistics on government debt instruments in Member countries. (viii) Technical assistance to NIS countries, to China and to Baltic countries on foreign direct investment and flow of funds statistics (only China). (ix) Network of experts on foreign direct investment statistic. (x) Compilation of FDI statistics for non-Member countries.
- b) **Revenue statistics:** This annual publication provides a conceptual framework to define which government receipts should be regarded as taxes and to classify different types of taxes. It presents a set of detailed, internationally comparable tax data in a common format for all OECD countries from 1965 onwards. The structure of the report has been revised to improve its accessibility to users. Future editions will update databases of level and structure of government revenue sources in OECD Member countries (in cooperation with IMF), and update the interpretative guide to accommodate reference to taxes in cooperation with IMF. New OECD Member and accession countries will also be included. Special features dealing with specific areas of interest (e.g., the interpretation of tax-to-GDP ratios; the impact of revised GDP figures on reported tax levels) have become a new important component of the annual report.
- c) **Taxing Wages (previously entitled 'The Tax/Benefit Position of Employees'):** This annual publication details the tax/benefit position of employees, covering personal income tax and social security contributions paid by employees and their employers, and universal cash benefits received by family units. Taxes and benefits are detailed for eight family-types, which differ by income level and household composition. The report also presents the resulting average and marginal tax rates. Future editions will include data on new OECD Member and accession countries, and will be further revised to accommodate dynamic demand of policymakers.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 42 - Financial Accounts, 52 - Money and Finance, 54 - Trade in Services and Balance of Payments (541, 542)*):

Member States without derogation will start to report regularly financial accounts including balance sheets according to ESA-95. The incoming Member State data will be analysed and condensed to EU data to the extent allowed for in view of the derogations. A first publication of the data is foreseen. The information should be sufficient to compile and then publish at least EUR-11 financial accounts.

To facilitate the start of the compilation of financial accounts a special training course for Member

States will be held. For this, good coordination between the ECB and Eurostat will also be assured. If PHARE funds can be made available, candidate countries will be able to participate in the financial accounts training course organised for Member States.

The statistical contribution to the excessive deficit procedure will change as statisticians in Member States will have to switch reporting from ESA-79 to ESA-95 and a revised version of the Council Regulation. The first debt and deficit notification according to ESA-95 is due for March 2000. A set of comparable short-term indicators for EMU Member States measuring their budgetary performance will have been agreed upon and thereafter developed in course of the previous year. These indicators will become operational during 2000. The pilot project on debt and deficit statistics for the candidate countries according to EDP rules finishes in May 2000. As a result, these countries will then be capable of compiling comparable debt and deficit statistics.

The use of the euro in national statistics will have to be encouraged. To this end, Member States will receive help, if need be, to adapt their statistical systems to the introduction of the euro. As the introduction of the euro has created new opportunities to improve and harmonise both national and Community statistics (e.g. thresholds), Eurostat is committed to exploit them. Moreover, the compilation of the euro yield curve will undergo further improvements. As far as monetary and financial indicators (short-term and structural) are concerned, EU standards will have to be promoted in the candidate countries. For this, however, an adequate resource endowment is necessary.

A further improvement of BoP statistics in general and ITS and FDI statistics in particular will be achieved through continuous methodological work: firstly through the BoP working group with its task forces and technical groups, secondly through close cooperation with the ECB and thirdly through an effective participation in the BoP committee of the IMF. A series of reports have already been adopted by the BoP working group and await implementation while others are soon to be adopted. The distribution of BoP statistics through Eurostat publications will be supplemented by joint ECB-Eurostat publications. The contribution of BoP statistics to services like euro-indicators will equally be extended. The transparency of BoP compilation methods fostered already through the ITS and EU institutions compilation guides will be enhanced further through the intended adoption of an Eurostat/OECD/IMF/UN manual on services trade to which Eurostat will obviously contribute considerably. All these improvements will be made to render a high quality service to users, be they policy makers, policy observers or otherwise interested in BoP statistics and more particularly in ITS and FDI statistics. These are particularly important in the light of the prospective "Millennium Round" negotiations. These measures will contribute not only to a convergence of BoP compilation methods of Member States, but also to a reduction of asymmetries. A decrease of differences between balance-of-payments and national accounts data can also be expected.

**Other Activities of the European Commission:** The Commission's work on these money and finance statistics is not confined to Eurostat only; however, this work does not concern national statistical offices.

**Activities of the European Central Bank:** The European Central Bank (ECB) conducts monetary policy for the Single Currency. The information needed by ECB is mainly macro-economic data such as national accounts (especially public deficit and debt) and prices. In addition certain short-term indicators on industrial production, orders and turnover, retail sales, labour market and external trade are required. The timing of the provision of data is particularly important. ECB requirements are closely integrated in Eurostat's work programme and it is foreseen that Member States will provide data to the ECB through Eurostat. In the frame of monitoring the stability of the financial system the ECB needs also structural business statistics in the financial services area (e.g. on banks, insurance, or other financial services enterprises).

**Activities of other organizations:**

**The ILO:** Statistics on cost of social security for 1990-93 are available on the ILO's Internet Web-site. Cooperation with Eurostat of mutual interest.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF)**: Following the publication of the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual (BOPM) in 1993, the Fund published a Balance of Payments Compilation Guide in 1995 and a Balance of Payments Textbook in 1996.

The Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual will be published in the first half of 2000, following a review of the redraft of the October 1997 version in February 2000. Thereafter, efforts will be made to convert the IMF's database for money and banking statistics to meet the requirements of the Manual. In addition, in consultation with concerned regional and international organizations as well as member countries, the Fund will be working toward the identification of a core set of macroprudential indicators concerning the financial system and developing, for consideration of its Executive Board, preliminary proposals for the collection and dissemination of data on macroprudential indicators.

Consideration is also being given to the scope and content of a compilation handbook on monetary and financial statistics.

Following receipt of comments on the Annotated Outline of the Revised Government Finance Statistics Manual, a draft manual has been prepared and circulated to members for comments. It is expected to be reviewed by an expert group meeting in 2000. The IMF conducts two-to-three week on-site missions to its member countries to help establish work plans in developing government finance statistics. The IMF also conducts training courses on government finance statistics at the IMF Institute in Washington (in English).

The IMF established a Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics in 1992 to oversee the implementation of the recommendations presented in the reports of the two IMF Working Parties (Report on the Measurement of International Capital Flows and Report on the World Current Account Discrepancy), advise the Fund on methodological and compilation issues in the context of balance of payments and international investment position statistics, and foster greater coordination of data collection among countries.

In addition, the IMF promotes the implementation of the BOPM, inter alia, through this Committee. Recent projects undertaken by the Committee include the conduct of a coordinated portfolio investment survey in respect of year-end 1997, which involved the collection of information on holdings of long-term foreign securities as at 31 December 1997. The Fund will arrange for the exchange of bilateral information both among the countries participating in the survey as well as to other countries whose residents issue securities in international and domestic markets, and publish a report on the outcome later in 2000. For 2000, the Committee's top priorities are to improve the reporting of external debt data within the international investment position framework, and to make preparations for a repeat of the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey as at December 31, 2001. High priority subjects will include monitoring implementation by SDDS subscribers of the data template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity, reviewing the work of an inter-agency task force in finalizing the new manual on statistics of international trade in services, and clarifying the concept and statistical treatment of repurchase agreements, other reserves transactions, and accrual of interest on debt securities. The Committee has also endorsed the publication of amendments to the BOPM in the area of financial derivatives. 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.

The IMF is collaborating with the members of the Inter-agency Task Force on Finance Statistics on a new publication, External Debt Statistics: Guide for Compilers and Users. The IMF will produce a first draft in the first quarter of 2000, which will be circulated for comments to member countries later in 2000. It is anticipated that the Guide will be published around the middle of 2001.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)**: For the period 2000-2002, the principal activities in the field of financial statistics are: (a) assistance to Commonwealth countries in improving financial statistics, including the formulation of proposals for the improvement of statistical reporting, particularly as regards government finance statistics, and of recommendations for the application of new methods and standards in statistics relating to money in

circulation and credit; (b) Collection, analysis and dissemination of financial and price statistics: (i) State budget income and expenditure in CIS countries; (ii) money income and expenditure of the population; (iii) business profits and the status of settlements (both internally and with other countries); (iv) banking statistics (credit extended, deposits, issuance of money, interest rates, credit indebtedness and investments); (v) statistics of insurance activity; (c) Analysis and publication of information and of statistical bulletins and compendia.

### **3.3 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To ensure that foreign trade statistics collected and produced by national administrations can be aggregated into regional and world totals without excessive loss of detail, discontinuity over time, or inconsistency of underlying concepts and data; to ensure that the conceptual framework of foreign trade statistics reflects current trends in the manner in which foreign trade is conducted.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** The improved flow of data among international organizations has already resulted in a better coverage of COMTRADE. Figures now show that COMTRADE covers some 84 per cent of world trade by commodity and partner country, some eleven months after the reference year, and 85-90 per cent for earlier years. A further improvement in the coverage of COMTRADE is expected. A PC-based graphical interface to COMTRADE is being developed to provide a more user-friendly access to COMTRADE and thereby expand the number of potential users of the database.

A reduction in the duplication of requests by international organizations for national monthly and annual merchandise trade data has already taken place and more is expected in the near future. For example, intensive discussions are taking place on the use by UNSD of IMF monthly data, the use of EUROSTAT and OECD data in COMTRADE, and the use by OECD of COMTRADE data.

For WTO, the outputs include: contributions to the next revision of international merchandise trade concepts and definitions in the areas of "systems of trade" and "valuation"; synoptic tables on "who does what and when" in the area of estimates; preparation of a proposal for revising the HS in collaboration with experts in the military field; the release of a CD-ROM (produced jointly with the World Bank) on the Integrated Data Base which will contain at the tariff line level the imports and tariffs of about 45 WTO members representing 92 per cent of world trade; and outputs related to the work of the Task Force.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- OECD has developed its database to give detailed annual data of exports and imports by commodities and by partner countries using the three classifications (SITC, HS, ISIC). The foreign trade database has also been expanded to cover trade reported by certain non-member countries in Asia and Latin America; and
- The increasing tendency of NSIs relying on electronic discussion groups which are generally composed of a small number of countries that work together in exchanging information and identifying efficient ways forward.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Meeting of Experts on Foreign Trade Statistics: November 2000

Eurostat: Committee: Trading of Goods, Intra and Extra EU, 15-17 November 2000

WTO: Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (annual)

**Rapporteur:** World Trade Organization (WTO)



**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Task Force on International Trade Statistics:** An Inter-secretariat Task Force has been established in this field by the UN Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical programmes and Coordination. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the convener of this task force. For the period 2000-2002 the work of the Task Force will focus on following up on decisions by the Statistical Commission. This includes: (i) finalising the Compilers' Manual for International Merchandise Trade, (ii) issuing a publication on the Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International merchandise Trade Statistics, which will summarise information on how countries define their statistical territories, (iii) preparing a report on national compilation and dissemination practices with regard to the index numbers of international trade, (iv) rationalising the Comtrade database, and (v) evaluating the usefulness and applicability of trade statistics according to the CPC aggregates for economic analysis. Other major activities will include the following: (i) further cooperation between UNSD, OECD and EUROSTAT to rationalise data collection; (ii) making the Comtrade database comprehensive in country coverage; (iii) adopting the IMF series of aggregate import and export values published in the IFS in US dollars; (iv) harmonising, to the extent possible, the annual values of aggregate imports and exports provided by countries and stored in the Comtrade database and the aggregate imports and exports also provided by countries and stored in the UNSD/IMF database; and (v) addressing the issue of the relationship between merchandise trade statistics, the national accounts and the balance-of-payments, reflecting the continuing attention being paid to the possibilities for future harmonisation between the concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics and the 1993 System of National Accounts and the fifth edition of the Balance-of-payments manual.

The OECD has set up an electronic discussion forum, which is jointly operated together with the WTO, to facilitate the exchange of information and working documents amongst members of the Task Force.

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:** Collects and maintains two databases for analytical use: (a) monthly data of exports and imports at current prices by partner countries and main categories of commodities, and volume and average value indices for selected countries and main categories; and (b) detailed annual data of exports and imports by commodities and by partner countries using three classifications (SITC, HS, ISIC).

In the period to 2000 the OECD foreign trade files may also be expanded to cover trade reported by certain non-Member countries in Asia and Latin America which are becoming major trading nations.

The OECD is revising and expanding its metadata base on the concepts and definitions underlying Member countries' foreign trade statistics. Some important issues raised at the 1999 meeting will be discussed in more depth at the meeting proposed for November 2000.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 53 - Trade in goods*):

The work as a whole is now treated in a systemic approach covering the various modules of the theme. The construction of a coherent system covering every methodological, organisational and data processing aspect of statistics relating to the trading of goods will continue in line with the *Strategic Action Plan*.

The system is being further modernised, and the priority guidelines for the new phase of the programme are optimising the system for collecting and processing information, exchanging best practices, developing common IT tools and using modern communication technologies.

Generally, the prime objective is to continue and step up work to consolidate the Intrastat and Extrastat systems.

Eurostat is offering products with an increasing focus on EU and Euro-Zone entities.

Analyses based on the work to build up long series carried out in 2000, the necessary prerequisite for any analysis over time, are to be conducted in greater depth.

A measure of quality and more systematic quality control in Eurostat and in the Member States should make for better communication and greater satisfaction on the part of users of very detailed statistics.

The work begun in 2000 on incorporating a more statistical and decidedly less accounting dimension of external trade is yielding its first results. The pilot studies on making statistics available by sector, in particular, should permit a move towards fuller analysis by allowing the results to be compared more directly with business and national accounts statistics.

The emphasis is on disseminating statistics which come ever closer to economic analysis by incorporating value, volume and price dimensions into the same medium. The focus is on analysis in terms of price competitiveness and market shares.

Segmentation between macroeconomist and microeconomist users will be continued as special CD-ROMs and long series are supplied to macroeconomists and current products are fine tuned in the light of microeconomist users' sectoral profiles.

Cooperation activities will continue under various programmes (Tacis, Medstat, etc.), and will be stepped up with the candidate countries. Reconciliation exercises are also to be continued with privileged partners, now using harmonised methods.

Work on long-term amendments to the Intrastat and Extrastat systems is scheduled or being pursued in the light of the results of earlier work, the availability of resources, changes in the environment (the administrative environment in particular) and needs. Thus:

- work in preparation for the reform of the Intrastat system has begun with the definition of studies and/or pilot surveys to be carried out by volunteer Member States in 2002;
- efforts are being directed towards incorporating statistics on the trading of goods more fully into the European and international statistical systems (e.g. catering for new needs linked to globalisation and better integration into the European statistical system);
- the Extrastat system is being further amended in order to satisfy the growing need to monitor trade with non-member countries by taking an approach which is less dependent on customs formalities and is consistent with international recommendations.

**Other Activities of the European Commission:** Using the Comext data base, various work of analysis and collection of supplementary data is carried out by several DGs in relation to: analysis of trade and preparation for trade talks, particularly in connection with the WTO; sectoral aspects of international trade in goods: agriculture (Agriculture DG), industry (Enterprise DG), fishing (Fisheries DG), etc.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

**UN Statistics Division:** UNSD is working with OECD and EUROSTAT on the common sourcing of detailed commodity trade statistics for EU and OECD countries to rationalize collection and processing and improve the compatibility of data maintained in the databases of the three organizations. UNSD makes available to ECE, OECD and EUROSTAT all international trade statistics that UNSD obtains from the countries in transition.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Two-to three week on-site missions focus on the review of existing data, institutional arrangements, concepts, methodologies, collection and processing procedures, staffing, and resources. In light of these assessments, recommendations are made based on UN methodologies for international trade statistics, the 1993 SNA and the Balance of Payments Manual. In some instances, related technical assistance and training is provided on foreign trade prices, also drawing on UN methodologies.

#### **World Trade Organization (WTO):**

- a) **Standardisation activities, classifications, guidelines and manuals and other methodological work:** (i) Participation in the preparation of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compiler's Manual; (ii)

Continued work on the valuation of transactions within the framework of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of GATT 1994, in collaboration with the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation established under the auspices of the World Customs Organisation (WCO); and (iii) Continued work on rules of origin in collaboration with the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin established under the auspices of the WCO.

b) Data collection: Information on imports and tariffs will continue to be collected within the framework of the Integrated Database (see Programme Element 6.1).

c) Technical assistance: Assisting recipient countries in their understanding and implementation of agreed international trade rules, in achieving their fuller participation in the multilateral trading system and ensuring a lasting, structural impact by directing technical assistance towards human resource development and institutional capacity building. Information on activities related to technical assistance may be found on the WTO web site (<http://www.wto.org/wto/tct/tct.htm>).

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): New measures**: Statistics of foreign trade between CIS countries in the light of the creation of a free-trade zone. Broader analysis and dissemination of data on two-way trade between CIS countries. Review of methodological recommendations for the calculation of indices of average prices and physical volumes in foreign trade. Assistance to CIS countries in assimilating and applying methodological recommendations relating to International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions as revised by the United Nations in 1997. Improving the quality and comparability of CIS countries' foreign trade statistics by the 'mirror statistics' method. In the period up to 2002, carry out work on building a database for CIS countries' foreign trade statistics.

### 3.4 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION STATISTICS

**Objectives over the next several years**: To ensure that transport statistics are consistent with the standards, classifications and needs of mainstream economic statistics. To improve data comparability through the development of a standardized terminology, definitions and classifications in transport statistics. To develop a set of standard price and quantity indices for transport services. To monitor developments in the field of transport database and information systems and promote the coordination of these.

**Expected collective output in the next two years**: Preparation of a third expanded edition of the Glossary for Transport Statistics (ECE-ECMT-Eurostat). Harmonization of existing classifications for the transport of goods.

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

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session**: None

#### **Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

ECE(ICT): Workshop on Extension of TERM (Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism) to ECE CIT's (Copenhagen, European Environment Agency), September 2000

ECE(ITC): Follow-up to the Task Force on Road Traffic Accident Statistics (convened in 1998 by ECMT, Eurostat, ECE), 23 October 2000

ECE(ITC)/Eurostat: Working Party on Transport Statistics, 51st session, 24-26 October 2000

ECE(ITC)-ECMT-Eurostat: meetings of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG.Trans), held 2-3 times a year with rotation of hosts

ECE(ICT): Working Party on Transport Statistics, 52nd session, 14-16 November 2001

ECE(ICT): Workshop on GIS for Transport Infrastructure Development (in cooperation with Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia), 2001

ECMT: Informal meeting on the 2000 version of the Common Questionnaire

ECMT: IWG.Trans meetings in October 2000.

Eurostat: Working Group: Rail Transport Statistics, 9-10 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Passenger Transport Statistics, 7-8 December 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Air Transport Statistics, February 2001

Eurostat: Coordinating Committee: Transport Statistics, March 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Road Transport Statistics, May 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Maritime Transport Statistics, June 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Rail Transport Statistics, November 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Passenger Transport Statistics, December 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Air Transport Statistics, February 2002

Eurostat: Coordinating Committee: Transport Statistics, March 2002

Eurostat: Working Group: Road Transport Statistics, May 2002

Eurostat: Working Group: Maritime Transport Statistics, June 2002

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

#### **Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Working Group:** The Intersecretariat Working Group on Transport Statistics (IWG) is made up of representatives from the secretariats of the ECE, ECMT and Eurostat. The IWG meets 2-3 times per year, with the location rotating between Geneva, Paris and Luxembourg. The objectives of the IWG are to promote the cooperation among the three main international organizations involved in transport statistics in Europe with the aim of harmonizing the collection, publication and dissemination of transport statistics at the international level.

The main vehicle for the harmonized work of the IWG is the Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics. The Common Questionnaire was developed jointly by the IWG in order to avoid the duplication of efforts by any one organization and to reduce the response burden of member countries.

Linked to the Common Questionnaire is the Glossary for Transport Statistics, available in all of the languages of the ECE and the European Union and available on the Internet. The Glossary contains commonly agreed definitions used in transport statistics and is intended to be used by member countries when filling out the Common Questionnaire.

An electronic version of the Common Questionnaire has also been developed into a transport database system, through which the ECMT and Eurostat are able to import data received by member countries directly into a database system where the data can be checked and verified and exported for publication. The ECE is developing a similar system that will be compatible with the IWG Transport Database System.

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

##### **Activities by the ECE Transport Division (Inland Transport Committee):**

- a) **Standardization activities and other Methodological Work:** Revision of the NST/R (Commodity Classification System for Transport), main work being undertaken by Eurostat, but WP.6 involved. Limited progress foreseen for period in question.
- b) **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).
- c) **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.

- d) Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (RAS) 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).
- (e) Technical Assistance: Workshop for CIT's foreseen in 2000.
- (f) Recurrent and non recurrent statistical publications are listed in Programme Element 6.1.

**Activities of OECD/ECMT:** The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) annually publishes a leaflet on Trends in the transport sector, a bulletin on Statistical Trends in the transport sector and a Statistical Report on Road Traffic Accidents; every 5 years, it publishes a statistical study on investment in transport infrastructure. The ECMT will also publish on its Internet site, the results of its quarterly Short Term-Trends Survey. These cover 39 European countries who are members of the ECMT.

The Common Questionnaire is circulated every year and is the basis for the Statistical Trends in Transport publication. The annual questionnaire on road accident statistics follows the terminology and definitions agreed by the Task Force on Road Traffic.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 48 - Transport*):

The statistical information system on Community transport will benefit from the ongoing dissemination programme based on further integration of on-line and off-line products, according to the Eurostat dissemination strategy. Statistics from modal data collection will be fully integrated with data from ongoing work in the Common Questionnaire and the Glossary established jointly by Eurostat, the UNECE and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). A new classification of goods in transport should be in force, based on new work planned to be carried out in 2000.

For road freight transport, there will be available better quality and more up to date statistics based mainly on regular publication of data from the 1998 Council Regulation. For rail transport, if the draft Council and Parliament Regulation proposed by the Commission is adopted in 2000, it should be in force in 2001 to meet the statistical priorities stemming from the liberalisation and the structural changes in the rail transport market. For maritime transport, the statistical information system will be based on full implementation of the 1995 Directive that achieved its transitional phase in 1999. For air transport, data are already regularly collected since 1993 on a reciprocity and voluntary basis. If the draft Council Regulation that is already before the Council is adopted in 2000, its first implementation will be under way in 2001.

For passenger transport, there will be available a Eurostat non-harmonised database based on ongoing voluntary transmission of information existing in Member States. A European wide survey on long distance mobility should be under way within the Transport 5th Research and Development Framework Programme. For intermodal transport, there will be an updated version of the publication on intermodal freight transport, based on non-harmonised information. A first manual for intermodal freight transport statistics will be produced, based on new methodological work planned to be carried out in 2000. A pilot survey should be carried out within the Transport 5th Research and Development Framework Programme.

For road safety, ongoing activities in the framework of the 1993 Council Decision on the CARE road accident database will be further coordinated with the voluntary data collection of key aggregated indicators. Improved statistics on transport infrastructure expenditure will be produced. The regional dimension of transport statistics will be given additional emphasis, especially in road transport, based on work carried out in 1999 and 2000. Collection of additional transport data for transport and environment indicators will be important in the context of the ongoing EU TERM (Transport and Environment Reporting Mechanism) project.

Data on economic aspects of transport will be available for the main variables applicable to transport enterprises, which are collected through the 1997 Council Regulation on structural business statistics.

For candidate countries, work will focus on cooperating with these countries to consolidate the data

collection established through the achieved Phare pilot project on road freight transport, and on carrying out new Phare pilot projects on maritime and air transport. For Mediterranean countries, work will continue to focus on strategic advice and on participation in selected technical consultations and training seminars.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): Activities:**

(a) Monthly collection, processing, analysis and publication of data on freight and passenger traffic and turnover for all modes of transport and on main-line freight traffic by type of freight and by country of the Commonwealth; (b) Collection, processing and publication of data on numbers of vehicles by purpose and on the operating length of transport systems (as at year-end) by country of the Commonwealth; (c) annual publication of a report on transport activities in the Commonwealth countries.

New measures: Pooling of the experience of the Commonwealth countries' statistical services concerning: (a) Calculation of transport indicators, with a view to intra-CIS comparability (2000, third quarter); (b) Calculation of freight tariff indices for the main modes of transport (2000, fourth quarter).

### **3.5 DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE**

**Objectives over the next several years:** Development and updating of international manuals and standards in this field in the light of changes taking place in the structure of the retail and wholesale sectors; and provide a forum for transition economies and other countries to discuss methodological problems in this field.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** For Eurostat: Databases and publications on retail and wholesale trades in the EEA and Central European countries. Implementation of the new regulation on business structural statistics. An annual report on the statistical and economic situation of trade in Europe based on the integrated system of observation. Comparative study of the statistical systems used in Europe and in some other OECD countries.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The progress done by the Voorburg Group in this field.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:** OECD's work on the development of indicators on electronic commerce is described in 3.8.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 47 - Distributive trades*):

Priority will be given to the implementation and development of the Structural Business Statistics Regulation as it is presently decided. Main focus will be given on data collection from the EEA countries. Data collection and treatment will be fully integrated with those of SBS general data. An Internet web site on

distributive trade statistics will be improved and maintained during the year.

Analysis and publication will be mainly dependent on partnership with the Enterprise DG: several publications with distributive trade statistics and analysis are planned. These comprise a main publication for the sector, a pocket book with extracts of the main publication, several small publications with analysis of sub-sectors and/or different themes linked to distributive trades. Data collection from the Central European countries will be continued and expanded to meet the growing need for information following the EU enlargement and negotiation processes. About 15 countries (including Cyprus) will be addressed to provide data according to the SBS Regulation. Statistical analysis in depth of four topics is foreseen in order to meet users' needs related to information on: e.g. competitiveness, cooperation agreements, trading forms and distribution channels in distributive trades. The analysis will in addition to the SBS Regulation be based on voluntary data collection. A project for establishing satellite account statistics for distributive trades will be followed up and expanded with the aim of linking trade business statistics to national accounts. The annual seminar on the development of commerce in Europe is scheduled to be arranged in autumn 2000. The main objective of the seminar is to form a meeting place for statistics producers and users in order to present the European Statistical System and get feedback on its strengths and weaknesses. Proceedings of the seminar will be published.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

##### **Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): a)**

Monthly collection, processing, analysis and publication of data on; (i) retail trade turnover through all sales channels (for trading organizations and for the informal sector) (in current prices); (ii) forms of ownership; and (iii) changes in trade turnover (in current and constant prices);

b) Annual data:(i) structure of sales of food and non-food goods in value terms at current prices and indices of the physical volume of sales; (ii) statistical information on the intermediation activities of various specialized exchanges (goods, raw materials, stocks and shares, currencies, etc.); (iii) general availability in CIS countries of selected durable consumer goods; and (iv) consumption of alcoholic beverages.

c) Systematic collection and exchange of information between CIS countries on prices for individual consumer goods in commercial enterprises (monthly) and on city agricultural markets in CIS capitals (monthly);

d) Economic reports are planned for 2000-2001 on institutional changes in the distributive trade and marketed services sector, on the situation in the consumer-goods and marketed-services market in CIS countries, and on comparative retail prices of selected goods in CIS countries;

e) Elaboration in 2000 of recommendations for the compilation, on the basis of the experience of CES countries' statistical services, of wholesale trade statistics.

### **3.6 INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To help develop suitable international nomenclatures and standards to ensure that national measurements are internationally comparable and consistent with basic economic statistics; to identify and establish a basic set of comparable data that meet the requirements of revised international standards for reporting Balance of Payments (BOP) and National Accounts (SNA) data and of recent agreements on international services trade; to provide further detail and analysis usable for promoting and developing services trade in a globalized competitive setting; to improve and selectively extend multilateral comparisons and exchanges of partner country data; to ensure that countries in transition have access to the methods and practices developed for the measurement of trade in services; and to contribute to the adaptation of the CPC to the specific needs of international trade in services.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** For OECD, the trade in services ad hoc group will monitor the implementation of the trade in services classification and work towards improving and establishing questionnaires for reporting data on activities of foreign affiliates. An additional output will be a manual on the definitions and classifications of international trade in services which is being funded jointly by OECD, WTO, Eurostat, UNSD and the IMF. The Manual on Trade in Services Statistics will contain the following chapters: (i) Introduction; (ii) The Conceptual Frame work; (iii) Transactions between Residents and Non-residents; and (iv) Foreign affiliates Trade in Services (FATS). The manual will provide a link between balance of payments statistics and GATS requirements. OECD is continuing to work with Eurostat to produce a joint publication on international trade in services.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- A manual on statistics of international trade in services (MSITS) to be produced by OECD, WTO, Eurostat, UNSD and IMF. The aim is to present MSITS to the UN Statistical Commission in 2001.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Meeting of Experts on Statistics of International Trade in Services, second half 2000.

Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, second half 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Balance of payments, 12-13 October 2000

**Rapporteur:** OECD

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services:** An Intersecretariat Task Force has been established in this field by the UN Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination. The Convener of this Task Force is OECD. The main task is the production of MSITS.

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:** Collects statistics for two databases: (a) International service transactions of OECD countries and (b) Value added and employment in service activities. Contributions to and editing of MSITS. Joint annual publication on International Trade in Services with Eurostat.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 54 - Trade in Services and Balance of Payments (543, 544)*):

The implementation of the various recommendations will be scrutinised closely: recommendations on codification for data collection and dissemination, on data collection for travel (passenger surveys, household surveys, ...) in connection with the disappearance of banknotes information or on asymmetry-reducing measures, but also on message standards and on merchandise transport once the report is finalised. This applies most notably for those measures agreed upon within the framework of gentlemen's agreements. The recommendations of the task force on direct reporting will have a particular impact on BoP compilation, because they will lead not only to a bigger role of large enterprises as direct suppliers of information on trade in services and foreign direct investment, but also contribute to a convergence of compilation methods. Moreover, the compilation of FATS statistics recently launched will become part of the standard FDI related compilation programme.

**Activities of other organizations:**



**World Trade Organization (WTO):**

- a) **Standardisation activities, classifications, guidelines and manuals and other methodological work:** (i) Active participation in the work of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services with particular emphasis on finalisation and implementation of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services; (ii) Continued participation in methodological work with regard to foreign affiliates trade (FAT) statistics conducted by Eurostat and the OECD; (iii) Continued participation in the work on balance-of-payments statistics carried out by Eurostat and the IMF in connection with the statistical requirements for implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS); and (iv) Contribution to more detailed elaboration of categories of the balance-of-payments classification of services through the use of the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0.
- b) **Technical assistance:** Assisting recipient countries in their understanding and implementation of agreed international trade rules, in achieving their fuller participation in the multilateral trading system and ensuring a lasting, structural impact by directing technical assistance towards human resource development and institutional capacity building. Information on activities related to technical assistance may be found on the WTO web site (<http://www.wto.org/wto/tct/tct.htm>). Also participating in technical seminars and training courses on trade-in-services statistics on an ad hoc basis.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):** The IMF promotes the development and improvement of data on international trade in services as an integral part of its activities related to the implementation of the Balance of Payments Manual. These efforts include (1) technical assistance, (2) training under the aegis of the IMF Institute, the Joint Vienna Institute, and ad hoc courses organized at regional and country levels, (3) activities undertaken in this area by the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, and (4) collaboration with other regional and international organizations that are members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Service Statistics.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** Collection of statistical information on Commonwealth countries' trade in services. Continued provision of methodological assistance to CES countries, and organization of the collection of statistical data on trade in services. Publication of CES countries' data on such trade by main types of service and by trade partner.

### 3.7 TOURISM

**Objectives over the next several years:** To develop a comprehensive, coherent and balanced system of tourism statistics capable of supporting government activities relating to developing and adjusting policy, and deepening the understanding of the determinants of tourism. Major components include the development of conceptual frameworks; common concepts and methodologies for measurement and integration of data. The information should also support the broad range of non-government interests (industry, public) including research, and coherent linkages with other areas such as social, demographic, business, economic and environmental studies.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** A work plan for a coordinated and cooperative development of approaches to (1) assess current international tourism-related statistics against the objectives listed above; (2) examine the compatibilities and the consistency of concepts, definitions and classifications; (3) conclude special agreements with neighbouring countries on the harmonization of methodologies and exchange of statistics on tourism flows between them, and (4) the development of a credible economic statement of the size and significance of tourism industries and their linkages with other industries in the economy.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The good progress being made by OECD and the World Tourism Organization in developing a common conceptual framework of tourism satellite accounts for submission to the 2000 session of the Statistical Commission.
- Problems in joint data collection to be resolved: During 2000, WTO, OECD and Eurostat will be discussing data collection needs in the context of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Tourism Satellite Accounts with a view to having a common questionnaire.
- The common conceptual framework of tourism satellite accounts that the OECD and the World Tourism Organization produced was welcomed by the Conference.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Tourism Committee, Paris, OECD (6-7 November 2000)

Eurostat: Working Group: SPC preparatory Meeting on Tourism Statistics, 23-24 October 2000

WTO: Conference on implementing Tourism Satellite Accounts – Working experiences, Data Requirements, Application and Knowledge Transfer Spring 2001)

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Tourism Satellite Accounts:**

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:** (i) To approve the OECD guidelines for a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and the employment module. The guidelines will be published together with some illustrative examples of national experiences in the first quarter of 2000. (ii) To cooperate with the World Tourism Organisation and Eurostat to develop a Common Conceptual Framework for a Tourism Satellite Account in view of its adoption at the UNSC. (iii) To develop a project on employment and tourism statistics, aiming to undertake a new data collection as well as regular analysis and publication of these data. This project is based on the OECD employment methodology in the field of tourism. Cooperation with the International Labour Office, Eurostat and World Tourism Organisation.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 50 - Tourism*):

Continued implementation of the Council Directive on tourism statistics, involving organisation and consolidation of the data collection system set up on the basis of the Directive and preparing further implementing provisions, e.g. geographical breakdown and coverage, accuracy requirements and quality aspects. Methodological follow-up on examining adaptations of national statistical systems to comply with the Directive and exchange of best practices between countries. Assure that the Commission Decision laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Directive is implemented in the Member States. Follow and report the work in Member States on adapting their methodology to the Community Framework on tourism statistics.

Consolidate the information system on tourism, introducing automatic validation procedures, quality control, calculation of aggregates, estimation techniques for missing data, etc. Continue the voluntary data collection on tourism statistics. Dissemination in different forms of the new harmonised data collected according the Directive: Tourism in Europe – trends, Tourism in Europe – key figures, Yearbook on Tourism and quarterly Statistics in Focus on tourism.

Continue the work on inbound tourism linked to the outbound tourism demand part in the Directive.

Continue the initiative on examining the needs and priorities for EU countries on implementing tourism satellite accounts in Europe, linked to the work undertaken in the OECD and WTO. Participation in works on the implementation of the Council Regulation concerning structural business statistics in relation to HORECA statistics. Follow the work in Member States on adapting their methodology to the business statistics methodological manual on HORECA-TA.

Organise data exchange with the OECD and WTO and explore further possibilities to use a harmonised questionnaire to facilitate data suppliers.

Finalise the implementation of the Medtour work programme within the framework of Medstat, providing the statistical indicators, publications and other results foreseen in the programme. Continue the cooperation on tourism statistics with the Central European countries, involving update of reports on existing statistical systems on tourism, data collection and publications.

Organisation and preparation of the Fifth International Forum on tourism statistics, to be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, in June 2000.

Work on data collection for regional information on tourism with higher periodicity and more detailed level than foreseen by the Directive and methodological follow-up of regional data collection methods. This involves a data collection by Eurostat on a voluntary basis of existing regional statistics in member states. Initialisation of regional data collection on tourism in pre-accession countries and update of summary report on existing regional data in EU to include also pre-accession countries.

**Other Activities of the European Commission:** The Enterprise DG started in 1998 to carry out a survey on travel intentions of tourists in the framework of the "Eurobarometer".

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

**World Tourism Organization:** Planned activities:

- (a) To keep annual meetings of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism and to offer its cooperation to those meetings of special relevance, such as the "5th International Forum on Tourism Statistics June 2000, Glasgow" or the Canadian "Conference on implementing Tourism Satellite Accounts – Working experiences, Data Requirements, Application and Knowledge Transfer" to be held in Spring 2001.
- (b) To prepare Regional Seminars on Tourism Statistics for the development of a Tourism Satellite Account; to elaborate teaching material, such as manuals, that may provide general guidelines for the set up of some basic elements of a TSA; to design the methodology for the elaboration of a Tourism Balance of Payments; to prepare a new set of documents that will help in showing different methodological aspects related to the present TSA framework and to develop the Action Plan approved by the last Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (Nice, France, 15-18 June 1999).
- (c) To continue with the present practice of compiling data on international tourist/visitor arrivals, arrivals by mode of transport, arrivals by purpose of visit, international outbound tourism; accommodation and tourism payments.
- (d) To continue providing technical assistance to countries on statistics. Normally, it relates to short-term missions (2/4 days) with the objective of improving the use and/or development of those international standards on tourism statistics that have been approved by the United Nations. During the next two years, most of this technical assistance will be devoted to the development of the TSA, will guarantee that published figures are strictly coherent and will reduce the burden of respondents.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** CIS-STAT collects and publishes statistical data on Commonwealth countries' international tourism. In 2000, it is intended to develop, on the basis of World Tourism Organization methodology, a uniform system of indicators for the recording of tourism-sector performance in Commonwealth countries.

### **3.8 OTHER MARKETED SERVICES, AND NON-MARKETED SERVICES**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To assist in laying a better foundation for the measurement of services and their integration with international trade statistics; to help develop suitable international nomenclatures and standards to ensure that national measurements are internationally comparable; and to ensure that countries in transition have access to the methods and practices developed for the measurement of activity in the services industries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** A third issue of the publication giving detailed statistics on value added and employment in service activities will be published in 2000. Development work by OECD continues on price indices for services purchased by producers. Here OECD is working with the Voorburg Group. An annual survey of national activity is undertaken and presented to the Group. OECD plans to publicise this work further on the OECD web-site. Work has also started in the National Accounts Expert Group on the measurement of labour productivity in government to improve output measures in real terms.

For an inter-secretariat group, including the IMF, the successful integration of the standard balance of payments items on transactions in services with measures of domestic production.

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

- A major objective of Eurostat and the international statistical community in the coming years will be to get EU Candidate Countries and other countries in transition to develop their statistics in this field to levels attained in other countries.
- **Problems in joint data collection to be resolved (includes also parts of PE 4.1 Insurance Services):** In 2000, detailed discussions between Eurostat and OECD on the set of data that is identical and agreement of data transmission from Eurostat and OECD. In 2001, transmission of data on the reference year 2000 based on an agreed timetable (continuation in the following years).
- **Future action in joint data collection (concerns PE 3.8 and 4.10, Value added and employment in service industries):** Structural business statistics – basic indicators: In 2000, detailed discussions between OECD and Eurostat on the set of data that is identical and on the underlying concepts and definitions. In 2001, continuation of these discussions in order to finally identify the common data set and to agree on data transmission (including transmission formats). In 2002, start of data transmission based on an agreed timetable (continuation in the following years).

#### **Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 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 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Regular annual meetings on FATS, FDI and ITS

OECD: ICCP Committee Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), spring 2001.

OECD: CSTP Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators (NESTI), 2001.

OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee (SWIC), 2000 and 2001.

Eurostat: Working Group: Audiovisual sector, 2-3 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Insurance Services Statistics, 5-6 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Information Society, 20-21 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Financial Services Statistics, 27-28 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Business Services Statistics, 4-5 December 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Demography of enterprises, 14-15 December 2000

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** ECE to explore the possibility and interest in organizing a joint meeting with Eurostat to help activate other countries than those of the European Union which are interested in making progress in this field.

**Activities of OECD:** a) Maintains a database relating to output and employment in service industries and publishes "Services Value-Added and Employment".

b) **Communication Indicators:** Work on Communication Indicators provides data for analysts and policy makers in OECD Member governments and contributes to the indicators framework for global information society. Basic performance indicators and the communication tariff comparison methodology are reviewed every two years. Work on the database and compilation of indicators will continue through 1999. The fourth biennial "Communications Outlook" was published in 1999. It presents data and analysis on market structures, performance indicators for public telecommunications services, broadcasting trends on convergence of information and communications technologies, tariffs and accounting rates and will also address some important technological aspects. In addition, the Telecommunications Database, 1999, was completed (available as a CD or disks). This database provides 90 time series of indicators on telecommunications such as network infrastructure, revenues, expenses and investment of operators, trade in telecommunications equipment, etc. Work will begin in 2000 on the fifth biennial "Communications Outlook" which will be published in early 2001. The communications indicators are being supplemented with several new indicators relevant to Internet development. (Cooperation with ITU, Eurostat).

(c) **Development of Information and Communication Technology Indicators:** Work on this aspect involves the development of statistical standards and the compilation of reliable indicators comparable across Member countries. An annual publication is planned. The first issue is due to be released in 2000. It presents data on the size and structure of the industries and relates outputs to international trade data and research and development. Work also involves the establishment of model surveys for the measurement of the use of ICT goods and services in business, Governments and households. (Cooperation with Eurostat, Voorburg Group)

(d) **Development of Electronic Commerce Indicators:** The development of appropriate indicators and the availability of statistics are necessary to understand the mechanisms, trends and implications of the information society and electronic commerce. The OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), after having developed an OECD activity-based definition of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, is now collecting internationally comparable ICT supply data and extending the ICT sector definition to a commodity-based one. The group is also working on a definition of the content sector, as well as developing model surveys for the use of ICTs.

Particularly challenging issues are faced in area of electronic commerce where reliable and internationally comparable statistics that measure its level, growth and composition are lacking, as is a consistent definition of electronic commerce. "Initiate work on defining and measuring electronic commerce" is one of the seven points in the OECD e-commerce action plan endorsed by Ministers at last year's conference on Electronic commerce (Ottawa, October 1998). Following an OECD Workshop (21 April 1999), which brought together the expertise of business, policy makers, researchers and statisticians to discuss issues of definition and measurement of e-commerce, the WPIIS decided at its April 1999 meeting to create an Expert Group on "Defining and Measuring E-commerce". Fourteen countries and Eurostat are participating in the Expert Group, and Singapore is participating as an Observer. The WPIIS Expert Group on e-commerce is working together with policy makers, businesses and research institutes to develop a framework for measurement priorities for electronic commerce. Initial building blocks of this multifaceted work are (1) the development of a set of e-commerce definitions for the purpose of statistical measurement across countries, (2) the translation of policy needs into a set of comparable e-commerce metrics, and (3) the development of concrete proposals to use and adapt existing statistical instruments to collect data and develop

such metrics. Once comparable data become available, they will be included in the publication referred to in (c) above. (Cooperation with Eurostat, Voorburg Group). A status report on the activities of the WPIIS Expert group (DSTI/ICCP/IIS(99)4/FINAL) was prepared for the Paris Forum on Electronic Commerce (October 1999). The report can be downloaded from [http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/it/ec/act/paris\\_ec/paris-ec\\_docs\\_1.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/it/ec/act/paris_ec/paris-ec_docs_1.htm). Contact person: Alessandra.Colecchia@oecd.org Janice.Owens@oecd.org (See also P.E. 3.13 and 3.XX).

(e) IT Indicators: Work on IT Indicators provides data for analysts and policy makers and contributes to the indicators framework for the global information society (see also points d) and e) below). A database of indicators is being developed and updated, and this will continue through 2000. The fifth biennial "Information Technology Outlook" will be published in 2000. It presents data and analysis on supply and market structures, indicators of e-commerce "readiness", analysis of the development and policies for electronic financial transactions, a set of chapters covering various aspects of ubiquitous computing (including GNSS, intelligent agents for the Internet, and flat panel displays) statistical profiles for 12 selected OECD countries, and a set of IT policy profiles for some 19 countries. (Cooperation with Eurostat, EITO, etc.).

(f) Development of research and development and innovation indicators for Services: Work on this aspect involves the review and establishment of standards for the measurement of research and development and innovation that are contained in the Frascati and Oslo manuals. The outputs will be revised manuals and improvements in the range of internationally comparable data available from existing OECD databases and publications.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 49 - Communications, 51 - Services*):

Statistics on the Information Society: In cooperation with Information Society DG and the OECD, work will continue on the creation of a database and publication of a compendium, comprising basic data on the information society and corresponding methodological notes, based on the valorisation of existing information in Eurostat and Member States. The inventory of surveys and development projects in Member States and elsewhere will be analysed and used as an input in the development of the data collection and the methodological aspects. Development of a statistical framework defining the scope and content, methodology, definitions, variables and data collection system on the information society. This will to a large extent profit from the R&D activities in the 5th framework programme.

Statistics on communication; post and telecommunications: The annual routines of collecting data, updating databases and publishing statistics will continue with the coverage widened to the Central European and Mediterranean partner countries. Methodological work on definitions and classifications will be externalised to experts of telecommunication services as much as possible. Improvement of statistics on postal and courier services will be started with the support of a task force. Update of the COINS database and inclusion in it of the international trade statistics for products and services; dissemination of the information collected. Work on methodology to produce a methodological manual of communications statistics harmonised with that of other industrial classes. This work consists of an examination of definitions and classification of the contemporary services available in the telecommunications market, by exploiting the experience gained in the pilot survey of telecommunications and taking into account the views expressed by main users of telecommunications statistics in the investigation of user needs (both conducted in 1999).

Statistics on audiovisual services: Continued enlargement, consolidation and regular use of databases, including publication. In close cooperation with the Information Society DG, continued implementation of a draft Council decision to develop statistics in the sector of audio-visual and related sectors, including work on a methodological framework, analysis of user requirements, analysis of existing statistics in Member States and pre-accession States and assessment of national and international sources and methods, data collection and testing working methods by pilot studies. Coordination with the European Audio-visual Observatory. In the field of structural business statistics, priority will be given to the implementation of the Regulation concerning structural business statistics in its present state. Developments through pilot actions will be pursued after setting priorities and feasibility in agreement with the Member States.

For all services sectors: Consolidation of an integrated information system on structural information on the services sectors, in mainly in-sourcing the treatment of all structural business data (collected on a obligatory or voluntary base), strengthening data treatment and estimation procedures; emphasising the analytical use of structural business statistics for the wide range of products and users of this information; continuation of development activities in searching for certain consolidation on some activities.

Structural business statistics in general: Continuation of the pilot actions foreseen in the structural business statistics regulation (in particular with the FATS pilot action, or actions on certain specific variables or breakdowns).

Financial Services Statistics: Further treatment of the SBS Regulation towards an adopted European legislation. Further work toward incorporation of other financial intermediation activities and financial auxiliary activities in the SBS Regulation.

Insurance Services Statistics/Statistics on Pension funds: Increase of analytical production on insurance services statistics and statistics on pension funds. Further treatment of the SBS Regulation towards an adopted European legislation.

Business Services Statistics: Consolidation of the extended data collection on business services and creation of a largely agreed list of variables: Increase of production on the base of the incoming data.

Statistics on the education, health, community and personal service activities: Carrying forward the pilot action in trying to go into a phase of voluntary data collections for certain activities; Start-up of the production on the base of incoming data, if possible.

Short term statistics: Priority will be given to the implementation of the Regulation concerning short term statistics: in general, improvement of the availability, transmission and timeliness of certain variables; development through pilot action; in particular, improvement of the availability and timeliness of deflated sales and employment data for retail trade and any other data needed by the ECB.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

##### **Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** a)

Monthly data collection on the supply of marketed services, including personal services, to the public in the Commonwealth countries through all sales channels (for enterprises and services rendered by private individuals) in current prices;

b) Information on changes in the supply of marketed services in current and constant prices;

c) Annual data collection on the structure of services in value terms at current prices and indices of the physical volume of sales.

**The Voorburg Group:** The Voorburg Group has decided that in depth discussion of a limited set of topics will constitute the core activity of the Group for the next two years. In addition certain ad hoc topics will be discussed each year.

For the period 2000-2002 the main topics will be: Service Product Prices and Classification of service products. Topics for ad hoc discussion will be: Measurement of the demand for services by enterprises, Definition of ICT products (services) and IT usage in enterprises, and Measurement of activity of non-profit institutions.

Planned activities: The next meeting will be held on September 18-22, 2000 in Madrid, Spain. The first two days will be entirely devoted to Product Price Indices. Business demand for services and ICT will be among the topics that will be discussed during the remaining days of the meeting.

During the year, countries will work together in pairs, in agreed areas. The Group will discuss the results of the work undertaken during the year, at the next meeting.

It is expected that as the experience of estimating prices in the areas of telecommunications, computer services and selected professional services, is reported by more countries, consensus will begin to emerge as to the most practical methodology and approach to the compilation of statistics relating to prices of

products and industries, in the selected services areas. At the end of the three- year period, it will be possible to draw together some general conclusions as to the pros and cons of various methodologies and report on a preferred approach for compiling price indices. By the end of the three- year period, the Group will expect to arrive at conclusions, with implications for future data collection on services activities and products, in each of the selected core and ad hoc areas.

Any experience relating to the suitability of CPC version 1.0 or proposals for revision, recommended by the members of the Voorburg Group, will be forwarded to the UN Expert Group on Economic and Social Classifications for their consideration for the next update of the CPC.

Expected future products: A model questionnaire on ICT usage by enterprises will be produced and presented to OECD's WP on Indicators for the Information Society.

At the end of the three year period it is expected that the following will be produced: 1) Reports on Producer Price Indices for Telecommunications, Computer Services and selected Professional Services e.g. accounting; and 2) A model questionnaire on purchased service inputs. In the interim, reports and papers will be available every year.

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### **3.9 PRICE STATISTICS, INCLUDING PURCHASING POWER PARITIES**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To define standards for the compilation of reliable and internationally comparable measures of inflation and for their correct interpretation; to help countries in transition convert their measures of price change into internationally comparable indexes; to help refine and implement methods to estimate purchasing power parities and to assist in introducing them to countries in transition.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** For Eurostat, two ICP surveys will be conducted annually in EU countries. In 2000, when the decision is taken on the membership of the EMU, Eurostat will also calculate and publish the Monetary Union Index of Consumer Prices (MUICP). Further work remains on CPI harmonisation, and more technical regulations are planned, culminating in a consolidated regulation at a later date.

Plans are being made for setting up an appropriate system for monitoring compliance with the various regulations. The system should also have the aim of raising quality standards generally, through observation of examples of good practice and their eventual incorporation into future guidelines or regulations. Eurostat also provides assistance to transition economies in ECP. For OECD, assisting with the integration of EU Candidate Countries into Group I of ECP 2000, coordinating the methodology used for ECP 2000, and ensuring linkage between the European and non-European countries participating in ECP 2000.

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

- This programme element was one of the programme elements that was selected for the in-depth review by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session. The ongoing work by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics of updating the ILO manual on CPI as well as undertaking the production of a manual on PPI was stressed as priority work in this area. The work is going well but should be speeded up further. The important inputs from the Ottawa Group and the Voorburg Group to these manuals were mentioned.
- Eurostat should be praised for its pioneer work in HICP as well as the methodological work carried out by the Ottawa and the Voorburg Groups and by the joint ECE-ILO meetings. HICP documents, legal acts and guidelines should be made more accessible to users.
- Eurostat is establishing a Rents Task Force to analyze the treatment of rents in Purchasing Power Parity calculations, particularly taking into account the impact of applying a uniform methodology to economies in different stages of transition. The Taskforce will consist of representatives from



Eurostat, the OECD, EU Member States and Accession countries. The Task Force will meet twice in Luxembourg and once in Paris.

- Greater attention should be paid not only to price changes but also to price levels. As users must be convinced that inflation is correctly measured, quality aspects of CPI must be given priority.
- When inflation is running as low as a couple of percentage points, 3-months moving averages could be used in order to avoid "noise".
- Eurostat's intention to continue to its efforts to increase the quality of PPPs and to expand their production to the regional level.
- In view of the difficulties encountered in the work of ICP, the Conference welcomed that the work with ECP will progress as planned.

#### **Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 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 2000 to June 2002:**

ACSO - ECE - Eurostat - OECD - World Bank - CIS-STAT Joint consultation on the European Comparison programme (Autumn 2000)

ECE - ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices (Autumn 2001)

ECE Special session on Consumer Price Indices for transition economies (Autumn 2001)

OECD: Joint meeting with Eurostat to discuss the results of the 1999 round of the Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme and future work, November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Capital goods, Construction and Civil engineering, 3-4 July 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Staff Regulation Article 64, 7 July 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Harmonization of consumer prices indices, 2-4 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Staff Regulations Article 64, 6 November 2000

Eurostat: Task Force: Harmonization of consumer prices indices, 14-15 November 2000

ILO: Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Consumer Price Indices and Household Budget Surveys, 2001.

Voorburg Group Meeting on services PPIs, September 2000

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat (consumer prices); OECD (other prices).

#### **Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics:** The task of the Intersecretariat Working Group, which consists of ECE, Eurostat, ILO, IMF, OECD and the World Bank, is to develop and document best practice guidelines on concepts and methods of price statistics and indicators, consistent with the established international standards on the subject. Price statistics and indicators include Consumer Price Indices (CPI), Producer Price Indices (PPI), International Trade Price Index (ITPI), Construction Price Index and other such price statistics and indicators as required on a priority basis and, to the extent possible, compatible with the System of National Accounts, 1993 and its updates. A technical expert group has been established to advise the IWGPS on the update of the 1989 ILO Manual on CPI. A similar expert group was also established for the production of a manual on PPI. The Ottawa Group and the Voorburg Group are continuously being informed about the work plan of IWGPS.

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

- a) **European Comparison Programme:** In cooperation with the Austrian Central Statistical Office (ACSO), Eurostat, OECD, CIS STAT and the World Bank organize joint consultations of the 1999 round of PPPs in the Autumn of year 2000.

- b) Consumer prices: Within the framework of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWG.PS) to prepare an updated international manual on CPI.
- c) Consumer prices: ECE-ILO joint meeting on consumer price indices (Autumn 2001) to consider:
  - (i) Treatment of quality changes in consumer price indices; (ii) New data sources and technologies for data collection; (iii) Practical issues in maintaining the representative sample (iv) Follow-up on choice of cost of living index versus pure price index; and (v) Treatment of electronic commerce in consumer price indices.
- d) Consumer prices: A special session for transition economies will be organized back-to-back with the ECE-ILO joint meeting on CPI.
- e) Producer prices: Within the framework of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWG.PS) to prepare an international manual on PPI.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

**Activities of OECD**: Organisation of the 1999 round of the PPP Programme, the data collection for which started in the first half of 1997. The 1999 round covers 43 countries (29 OECD Member countries and fourteen non-Member countries). Three of the OECD countries and eight of the non-OECD countries are EU Candidate Countries. During the 1999 round the OECD is working closely with Eurostat to integrate the Candidate Countries into the Programme and to harmonise the methodology employed.

The OECD will continue participating in the Eurostat Working Party on the Harmonisation of Consumer Price Indices and the associated task forces. OECD will participate in the Inter Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, one of the tasks of which is to update the ILO manual of Consumer Price Indices, and another is assisting in the IMF's work on writing a manual on Producer Price Indices.

OECD provides practical support to the work of the Voorburg Group by conducting an annual survey of national activity in collecting services PPIs.

**Activities of Eurostat**: (*Theme 55 - Prices*):

Consumer Price Indices: HICP work will be focused on the completion and consolidation of the regulatory framework, including the monitoring of compliance by Member States, and on the implementation of supplementary and recently adopted regulations. Further efforts will be made to shorten the time between data collection and index publication. HICP transparency will be increased through the publication of a manual describing in detail the HICP compilation practice. HICP research is needed to enhance the general understanding of HICPs and consequently their quality improvement and general acceptance. Such research, however, can be undertaken only if adequately funded (e.g. through the EU research programme).

Purchasing Power Parities: After having launched the ECP reform in 1999, PPP work will focus on improvements in quality and in efficiency of production. The full integration of the candidate countries will require not only special attention but also PHARE funding, most notably because much work will have to be done by those Member States acting as "group leaders".

Efforts will be made to identify and use alternative sources of data, including electronic databases. The classification will be adapted to COICOP and simplified. Efforts will be made to rationalise the publication of PPPs, and also to adapt them better to user needs. A plan for the development of PPPs has been finalised aiming initially at improving the adequacy of national PPPs for regional policy purposes and later at developing fully regional PPPs. The start of work on regional PPPs, however, will depend on resources that will need to be made available by the Regional Policy DG. A more secure legal basis for PPP work will be sought.

Remuneration of EU institution staff: As far as extra-EU correction coefficients are concerned, a smooth handover from Eurocost to a new company will be assured, and significant cost savings will be achieved. Work will be done, in collaboration with the Personnel and Administration DG, to prepare for any methodological or practical changes in the EC remuneration system to apply from 2001.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**The ILO:** The ILO will continue (i) to participate in the Eurostat Working Party on Consumer price indices and in other international fora; (ii) as the focal point for consumer price indices within the UN system, to continue to collect and publish data on consumer price indices and to update the methodological descriptions of national practices published in Sources and Methods; (iii) to collect and publish data on food prices through the ILO October Inquiry; and (iv) to update the existing international standards on CPI, in particular the ILO manual on CPI, through the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Prices Statistics (ILO, ECE, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, the World Bank and UNSD). A meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Consumer Price Indices and Household Budget Surveys will be held in 2001.

**The International Monetary Fund (IMF):** In consumer and producer price statistics, the IMF will continue to provide hands-on training, develop software packages, based on UN and ILO methodologies that can be used by member countries, serve as secretariat for the Technical Expert Group for Producer Price Indices (TEG-PPI), and be an active participant in the ISWPS and the Technical Group for Consumer Price Indices (TEG-CPI).

**World Bank:** The World Bank has four activities in the area of the International Comparison Programme (ICP): (i) it works in collaboration with OECD, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Russian Goskomstat to compile regional ICP data for the year 2000 ICP round; (ii) it integrates the regional results into a globally consistent framework; (iii) it maintains a database that incorporates detailed data at the basic heading level; and (iv) it conducts a pilot study, with a view to developing a survey framework to harmonize ICP and CPI price surveys.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** a) CIS-STAT collects and publishes data monthly for the composite index and its structure in Commonwealth countries. A report on consumer prices in CIS countries will be prepared in 1999.  
b) CIS-STAT and Goskomstat - Russian Federation are working on the understanding that the 1999 international value comparisons of CIS countries' GDP and PPPs are part of ICP and should therefore be made in accordance with the requirements of that programme involving: (i) Adaptation of United Nations methodological materials for international comparisons to the circumstances of Commonwealth countries; (ii) Updating of lists of representative consumer and investment goods/services and descriptions of construction projects taking account of ICP requirements; (iii) Refinement of the classification of GDP expenditures in line with ICP; (iv) Preparation of electronic tables for a questionnaire to gather information for international value comparisons of CIS countries based on 1999 data and using the updated lists of representative goods/services and the refined classification of GDP expenditures; (v) Development of an electronic data processing program. CIS-STAT considers that possible assistance from the World Bank would help to resolve many of the practical problems connected with the comparison and enable CIS countries to participate more effectively in the programme.

**Activities regarding purchasing power parity:** By decision of the Council of Heads of Commonwealth Countries' Statistical Services, CIS-STAT and Goskomstat Rossii are acting as coordinators of the programme to be executed within the framework of the United Nations IPC and with financial support from OECD for international comparisons of gross domestic product and of the purchasing power parities of the currencies of the CES countries and Mongolia on the basis of data for 2000.

**New measures:** In accordance with the work plan for international comparisons by the CIS countries and Mongolia on the basis of data for 2000, it is planned to hold a series of multilateral meetings in the period 2000-2002. Results of the comparisons by the CES countries and Mongolia on the basis of data for 2000 will be published at the end of 2002. It is planned to synchronize the CES countries' comparisons with the corresponding comparisons by OECD countries through the medium of the Russian Federation, which is a permanent participant in both sets of comparisons.

The question of the financing of this project has not been fully resolved. This is aggravating a number of practical problems pertaining to the making of the comparisons and CES countries' participation in them.

**Ottawa Group on Consumer Price Indices:** The Ottawa Group provides a forum for specialists and practitioners who work for, or are advisors to, national statistical agencies or international organisations to exchange their experiences and thoughts on crucial problems of measuring price change. Without avoiding theoretical issues, the focus of the Group is on applied research, particularly though not exclusively, in the area of consumer price indices. The Group examines advantages and disadvantages of various concepts, methods and procedures in the context of realistic operational environments, supported by concrete examples whenever possible.

The fifth meeting took place in Reykjavik, Iceland, 25-27 August 1999. The next meeting is planned for Canberra, Australia, in March 2001. On the proposed agenda the following two topics are selected for the first time for presentations and discussions: price indices for telecommunications, and price indices for financial services. These two topics will probably include study of the following subtopics.

#### Telecommunications

- Problems that face price statisticians due to the interlacing and merging tendency among various telecommunication media;
- Price indices for telephone services given current industry changes;
- Price indices for cellular telephone communications; and
- Price indices for internet services, as part of the consideration of telecommunications.

#### Financial Services

- Price indices for the consumer services provided by financial institutions;
- The issues concerning the inclusion of interest payments in CPIs.

Because these topics are relevant to producer price index makers as well it is expected that this meeting will be attended by some, as well as by consumer price index specialists.

In addition, following recommendations made at the Geneva meeting two other joint projects will be developed. The first is to undertake coordinated research among a number of national statistical offices into hedonic indices for some specified consumer durable products. The second is to develop on the Ottawa Group website a central source of information on research and results pertaining to quality change in consumer price indices. Reports on progress will be included in the Canberra meeting.

The seventh meeting will be held in Paris, France, in 2002. The agenda will be determined later.

Copies of proceedings of the meetings and information about the Group are available on the Internet at <http://www.statcan.ca/secure/english/ottawagroup>

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### **3.10 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY STATISTICS**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To exchange information on experiences in collecting and compiling food, agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics including their environmental aspects, to ensure that such data are integrated, comply with comparable conceptual frameworks and help answer current policy concerns. Specifically, to contribute to work in developing recommendations for agricultural censuses and to ensure that the concerns and requirements of countries in transition are adequately reflected. To assist national statistical offices to develop agricultural statistical systems capable of being used for organizing agricultural surveys for the collection, analysis and dissemination of current data on both crops and livestock.

To continue close inter-organisation cooperation in collecting and publishing forest sector data, relevant to the monitoring of sustainable forest management.

For Eurostat, to provide the essential data required for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) within the European Union and the plans for its reform.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Agreed concepts and definitions for implementation in the forthcoming round of agricultural censuses. A centrally developed and supported training programme in food and agricultural statistics for countries in transition. Training Seminars organized jointly by ECE-OECD-FAO-Eurostat. Preparation and publication of a new methodological manual for agricultural price statistics is being undertaken by Eurostat. A work programme to develop the use of agricultural statistics to obtain environmental information.

(Cross-reference: See also Programme Activity 5, environment statistics, CES/BUR.2000/26/Add.5).

An improved, more comprehensive set of forest sector statistics collected jointly by FAO, ECE, Eurostat and ITTO.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- This programme element was one of the programme elements that was selected for the in-depth review by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session. During the discussion, the broader scope of agriculture statistics to include also agri-environmental and indicators of rural development was noted.
- The need for continued co-ordination by international organisations of concepts, definitions, joint data collection and databases were stressed.
- The need of assistance to countries in transition for agriculture census was noted, in particular to those countries that have never before carried out such census.
- The Technical Action Plan for the Improvement of Agriculture Statistics, and how that is contributing to a reduced response burden on countries;
- The increasing interaction between agriculture and the environment; and
- The growing use of GIS in agriculture statistics, in particular in the use of remote sensing to simplify data collection.
- **Future action in joint data collection (agriculture other than economic accounts for agriculture):** - IWG.AGRI has initiated a project, which will explore how joint data collection can be improved. A concrete proposal was presented by OECD to the June 1999 joint ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD meeting. A report was also presented to the autumn 1999 meeting of the CES Bureau. In 2000, a test will be undertaken for a limited number of variables and countries. Thereafter, other types of data sets will successively be identified and included in framework of Common Data Consultation and Utilization. Should be completed within a period of 1-2 years after the initial test phase.
- **Future action in joint data collection (concerns PE 3.10 and PE 5.1 Agri-environment indicators):** Following the meeting of the OECD JWP on Agriculture and Environment last October, it was decided that a core set of indicators should be agreed for the next JWP (June 2000). If the JWP gives its approval to the list, then a joint questionnaire should be drawn up to collect the data. As far as possible Eurostat would propose to pre-fill the questionnaire with existing data from Agriculture and Environment statistics, and other sources. This is to serve several purposes: (a) indicate which data sets are currently available in Eurostat, and (b) allow the Member States to simply correct any errors in the time series and to up-date the data, rather than refill the whole time series.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 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 2000 to June 2002:**

ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Seminar on Agricultural Economic Statistics, Luxembourg, 5-7 July 2000  
ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD-ISI: 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Agricultural Statistics, Rome, 5-7 June 2001  
ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Meeting on Food Agricultural Statistics in Europe, Autumn 2001  
FAO-ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, June 2001

Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics, meetings about twice a year (membership: ECE, FAO, Eurostat, ITTO, OECD, EEA, CEC)

OECD: Expert Meeting on Economic Accounts for Agriculture, 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Economic accounts for agriculture, 3-4 July 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Vineyard and orchard statistics, 25-26 September 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Agricultural price statistics, 28-29 September 2000

Eurostat: Committee & Working Group: Crop products statistics, 2-3 October 2000

Eurostat: Committee & Working Group: Animal products statistics, 9-10 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Agro-industry statistics, 19-20 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Agricultural Statistical Committee + Seminar, Valencia 7-10 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Land use statistics, 16-17 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Milk statistics, 20-21 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Agro-industry Statistics, 27-28 November 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Economic accounts for agriculture, 4-6 December 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Agricultural Structure Surveys, Typology, 11-12 December 2000

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Agricultural Statistics:** The activities of the ECE, FAO, OECD and Eurostat in the field of agricultural statistics are coordinated and integrated by means of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Agricultural Statistics (IWG.AGRI). Meetings and seminars are convened jointly (additional information on joint work is given below in the section "Activities of ECE"). IWG.AGRI is continuously working towards common data consultation among the organizations. The IWG.AGRI meets twice a year and is convened on a rotating basis.

**Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics:** The working group, which consists of UN/ECE, FAO, EU, OECD, International Tropical Timber Organisation, European Environment Agency, meets informally twice a year to coordinate activities and make improvements. There is a wide range of informal and ad hoc meetings at the global and regional level.

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Seminar on Agricultural Economic Statistics (Luxembourg, July 2000, back-to-back with a regular Eurostat meeting) to consider: (i) economic accounts for agriculture; (ii) agricultural modelling; (iii) prices; (iv) agriculture income indicators; and (v) labour input.
- b) ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD-ISI 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Agricultural Statistics (Rome, June 2001, hosted by ISTAT and supported by IWG.AGRI, to consider, in addition to a number of parallel sessions, the following plenary sessions: (i) Agriculture in the new millennium; (ii) International harmonization of agricultural statistics; (iii) Technological impact on data dissemination
- c) ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics (Autumn 2001), to consider:
  - A. Experiences and lessons: (i) the agriculture census 2000; (ii) interaction of agriculture with environment and rural space; (iii) risks and opportunities in the use of administrative and other non-survey data;
  - B. Methodological issues: (i) income statistics; (ii) productivity; (iii) measuring and forecasting food supply; and

- C. Making agricultural information more user friendly: (i) use of GIS in agriculture statistics; (ii) techniques for presentation of statistical results.

Secretariat resources: Moderate.

**Joint activities of the Timber Section of the ECE Trade Division and the FAO:**

- a) ECE-FAO Working party on Forest Economics and Statistics (2001 and 2003) reviews collection and dissemination of information in the sector.
- b) The Timber Section of the UN/ECE Trade Division and the FAO Forestry Department together maintain and operate an integrated system for the collection, improvement and dissemination of statistics in the sector (production, trade, prices, consumption, forest resource). This system covers statistics concerning trade, environment and land use, as well as industry.
- c) Standardisation activities: The regular work is based on the FAO/ECE Classification and Definitions of Forest products. A list of terms and definitions on the forest resource has been prepared for the Temperate and Boreal Forest Resource Assessment 2000.
- d) Technical assistance: FAO has a large programme of institution building in developing and transition countries, including the development and improvement of forest sector statistical systems.

**Activities of OECD**: Maintains a database of producer subsidy equivalents/consumer subsidy equivalents. Maintains an outlook/model database, for analytic and forecasting work on commodity projections using different policy scenarios. Maintains a database of economic accounts for agriculture. The methodology of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture is in the process of being reviewed with Member countries to implement necessary changes and the addition of capital stock measures be investigated for possible inclusion. A consultant report prepared for this meeting which identified key issues for improving economic agricultural statistics has been released for general distribution. First conclusions of an exchange of views with OECD countries using an electronic discussion forum will be discussed at the OECD Expert meeting on Agricultural Accounts on 3-4 February 2000. The OECD agricultural trade database is in the process of being reviewed to incorporate, inter alia, policy parameters such as tariffs.

**Activities of Eurostat**: (*Themes 61 - 69 - Land use and Landscape, Agricultural structures, Agricultural incomes and prices, Crop and animal production, Agro-industry statistics, Other agricultural statistics, Forestry statistics, Fisheries statistics*):

The principal areas of statistical work are: land use and landscape, farm structures, incomes and prices, crop and animal production, agro-industry, forestry and fisheries. Common features of current activities are:

- (i) regular reception, processing, storage and dissemination of considerable flows of data in application of existing legislation and gentlemen's agreements;
- (ii) "maintenance" of this framework of legislation and agreements;
- (iii) quality improvement measures following the screening of agricultural statistics.

This third dimension of activity centres on the implementation of the Council/European Parliament Decision on improving Community agricultural statistics (TAPAS), prolonged to end-2002.

The gradual adaptation of the set of Community agriculture statistics to be in a position to meet identified new or changing needs will continue, although only very limited resources can be found for this work. It will involve:

- (i) continuing monitoring of needs and relevant ongoing and proposed activities;
- (ii) maximum integration with on-going work on agricultural and non-agricultural statistics;
- (iii) continuing attention to efficiency aspects;
- (iv) the implementation of the comprehensive independent review of the present system being prepared in 2000.

Work on agri-environmental data will continue and be further developed. In particular, work will

continue on indicators of the integration of environmental considerations into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and on operational indicators of landscape including the development of a central system of area-frame sampling. Attention will also be paid to the growing need for information in the consumer/welfare aspects of agriculture and to the statistical support for the rural development component of the CAP.

Work with candidate countries involves

- A:
- (i) consolidating regular flows of data from official statistical services;
  - (ii) planning and organising the execution of country statistical development programmes;
  - (iii) multi-country capacity building in an integrated international framework;
  - (iv) monitoring compliance with the *acquis communautaire* (including gentlemen's agreement statistics).
- B: Coordinating the thematic component of EU Member States and Community activities on the above in the framework of the Agricultural Statistics Committee.

Concerning fisheries, beside the ongoing work on catch, landings and aquaculture production statistics, new domains will be explored: employment, socio-economic indicators and Mediterranean fisheries. The data management within the FAME and NewCronos databases will be improved (collection, storage and dissemination). The assessment of the available fisheries data in candidate countries will be in its final phase.

**Other Activities of the European Commission:** The Agriculture DG collects data in the framework of FADN. This network is not designed to yield detailed land use information. The Farm Accounting Data Network uses Farm Structure Survey results under the Community typology for calculating raised totals.

The Agriculture DG collects weekly agricultural prices in the context of the management of agricultural markets. It also collects data from Member States on production and marketing of eggs for hatching and of farmyard poultry chicks. Results are made available to Eurostat.

Eurostat's work is in coordination with and feeds into the European Forestry Information and Communication System being developed by the Agriculture DG.

Fisheries DG is responsible for the implementation of the EU legislation concerning the collection of basic data (scientific, biological and economic) needed for the management of the CFP.

### **Activities of other organizations:**

#### **The FAO:**

FAO will continue to maintain and update 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.

Major published outputs will continue to include: FAO Production Yearbook (two volumes), Fertilizer Yearbook (Volumes 49 and 50); Trade Yearbook (two volumes), FAO Bulletin of Statistics and regular updates of the Summary of World Food and Agriculture Statistics.

There will be a new feature available on the FAO Web site <http://www.fao.org> that will guide users' information regarding the national statistical methods underlying the data disseminated by FAO. In addition, it will provide national information on local contact person (by subject matter, e.g. crop production, producer prices, farm inputs, etc.) dissemination formats, coverage, periodicity and timeliness, access by the public, integrity and data quality. It will, for the first time, give users information about the quality of FAO data.

Methodological outputs planned are: A CD on "Technical Conversion Factors" and a "Handbook on Food Balance Sheets". Two regional workshops on preparation of supply/utilization accounts for upgrading national capabilities will also be organized during the reference period.

FAO will continue to collaborate in the Intersecretariat Working Group on Agricultural Statistics (IWG.AGRI) and the FAO-UN/ECE Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe, planned and organized by the CES – Conference of European Statisticians – to be held in 2001.



FAO will update the information in the web page on agricultural census:  
[www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/ECONOMICS/ESS/wcares/wcaresfr.htm](http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/ECONOMICS/ESS/wcares/wcaresfr.htm).

The FAO questionnaire on agricultural census data will be dispatched to FAO member countries to obtain census results.

Technical assistance will continue to be provided through FAO's Technical Cooperation projects.

#### Fishery

The focus of the programme will be on the refinement of data for the accurate assessment of fishery resources and aquaculture, of monitoring of fishing capacity through improved fishing fleet data and the further development of norms and standards to ensure international data comparability. The use of guidelines for collecting structural information on aquaculture and for routine collection of capture fishery data will be promoted as appropriate. In the biennium emphasis will also be given to improved access to high quality and timely fishery information, including statistical data, promoting the exchange of information among clients.

In order to minimize the reporting burden of the national fishery statistical services, activities are planned for a strengthened collaboration with Eurostat and OECD. This should also result in improved coverage and reliability of socio-economic statistics on employment in fisheries and aquaculture, value of production and fish consumption. Development of some fishery statistics for the Mediterranean countries will be triggered by sub-regional projects (COPEMED, ADRIAMED), including socio-economic indicators.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): Activities:** Collection, processing and publication of data on agriculture in Commonwealth countries:

Monthly, for output of selected types of livestock product;

Quarterly, for agricultural output in current prices and indices of agricultural output in comparable prices, for numbers of livestock and poultry and for grain and potato harvests (four times a year);

Yearly, for sales by farms and other producers of main agricultural products, producer price indices for agricultural products, gross harvests of crops and yield (according to FAO recommendations), balance of resources and use of products, per capita consumption of main food products, and numbers of peasants' (farmers') farms and the associated land;

Preparation of analytical reports on the situation and development of agriculture.

### 3.11 INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

**Objectives over the next several years:** To ensure that industry statistics are consistently classified for purposes of international comparability; to ensure that all member countries and particularly countries in transition apply the latest version of international standards and classifications; to ensure that recent trends in the structure of the economy (industry and services) can be analysed by means of series of statistics that are harmonised, comparable, detailed and up-to-date. To support policy-makers' analytical needs with longitudinal micro-level databases offering new possibilities for analysis in the areas of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurship, productivity, technology or employment at a disaggregated level. To contribute to the development of internationally comparable and policy-relevant indicators such as productivity measures at detailed industry level.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Advance the compilation and publication of core industry-level data in ISIC Rev. 3 (NACE Rev. 1) with the objective of providing time series that can be used for policy-relevant analysis; examine measurement issues in industry statistics such as those associated with information and communication technology; publish international SME statistics; advance the development of a manual for the development of globalisation indicators and for the measurement of productivity.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- Future action in joint data collection (short term industrial indicators): Since 1997 discussions have been held between OECD and Eurostat with regard to closer cooperation. For the moment there is no plan for a joint data collection activity.
- Future action in joint data collection (mainly PE 3.11 and PE 3.13 Information Society Statistics): The OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS), after having developed an OECD activity-based definition of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector, is now collecting internationally comparable ICT supply data and extending the ICT sector definition to a commodity-based one. The WPIIS has decided to create an Expert Group on "Defining and Measuring E-commerce". Fourteen countries and Eurostat are participating in the Expert Group.
- The Conference took note of the work undertaken by the OECD in the area of Information, Computers and Telecommunications.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD: Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee, Autumn 2000, Autumn 2001  
Eurostat: Working Group: SBS Regulation Implementation + SBS Quality, 12-13 September 2000  
Eurostat: Working Group: Iron and steel industry after 2002, 27 September 2000  
Eurostat: Working Group: Business Statistics Directors, 23 October 2000  
Eurostat: Committee: PRODCOM, 13-14 November 2000  
Eurostat: Working Group: Implementation of the short term statistics regulation, 13-14 December 2000.

**Rapporteur:** OECD

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** None

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

- a) Steel: During annual meetings steel experts examine statistical questions relating to the development of the steel industry and assist in defining methods of establishing current statistics, including the method for calculating apparent steel consumption. They also promote the establishment of steel statistics, and pay particular attention to improving statistics on stocks and on the actual consumption of steel. Several publications on steel statistics are described under programme element 6.1.
- b) Chemical industry: Experts on the chemical industry review developments in the chemical industry in the ECE region at annual meetings. Several publications planned to be issued within the programme of work are described under programme element 6.1 (e.g. "Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products" and "Chemical Industry Annual Review").

**Activities of OECD:**

- (a) The OECD Statistical Working Party of the Industry Committee meets once a year to examine different aspects of analytical and statistical work carried out by the Secretariat in support of the OECD Industry Committee.
- (b) Statistical work is designed to provide internationally comparable, disaggregated series of variables for indicators and analysis -- the main databases are: (i) the short-term industrial statistics which consist in monthly and quarterly series (both quantitative and qualitative data), published quarterly in the Indicators of Industrial Activity (IIA); (ii) the Information System on Industrial Structures (ISIS), updated through a joint questionnaire with UNIDO and published every year in "Industrial Structure Statistics". These two databases are being extended to the service activities (detailed level of ISIC Revision 3); (iii) the Structural Analysis

industrial database (STAN, based on ISIS and compatible with national accounts); which has been developed to construct internationally comparable indicators of technology, industrial performance and competitiveness and the database on business R&D expenditures (ANBERD); (iv) the database on Activities of Foreign Affiliates (AFA), covering variables such as employment, production or R&D in conjunction with foreign direct inward investment. This data bank is being extended to the activity of affiliates of national firms abroad (outward investment) and to the services, but will be subject of further review (collaboration with OECD experts on services and with Eurostat); (v) trade in high-technology products. This data bank includes information on 240 product groups identified in collaboration with Eurostat; (vi) the Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Database, developed and shared with Eurostat. The database provides information on core economic variables disaggregated by industry and service sectors and enterprise size. A publication showing detailed statistical information on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises will be prepared in 2000.

Questionnaires for most of the databases are both in ISIC Rev. 2 and ISIC Rev. 3 to allow for the differing degree of advancement with the transition to ISIC Rev. 3 between countries. The number of countries which have implemented the new revision and produced several years of observations is increasing rapidly. However, the transition to ISIC Rev. 3 will continue posing a significant problem for the availability of coherent time series of international industrial statistics.

(c) A methodological publication on quantitative short-term industrial statistics has been published in 1999. Other methodological publications will be prepared on qualitative short-term industrial statistics and on industrial structure statistics.

(d) As from 1999, the OECD collects more detailed statistics and related methodological information on services activities for inclusion in both its short-term and structural statistics databases.

(d) Other Working Parties or Committees are involved in industry-level statistics, such as the Steel Committee, the Maritime Transport Committee, the Council Working Party on shipbuilding

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 44 - Industry*):

**Structural business statistics:** Priority will be given to implementing the Regulation concerning structural business statistics and its current annexes. Few developments are expected from the pilot actions and are in any case limited to the reduced capacities that the NSIs can mobilise. The emphasis will be on: faster availability of data and the standardisation of exchanges between the NSIs and Eurostat; validation and processing of rapid data at Eurostat; loading and availability of data on NewCronos using a single internal database; the aim will be make a Member State's data available two weeks after transmission; estimates for recent years (nowcasts) by using short-term data to update structural data; publications appearing as quickly as possible, whether in print or on CD-ROM. Collection, validation, processing and publication of data up to the 1997 reference year, and possibly 1998, depending on availability. The 1998 data will mark the end of the derogation period laid down in the regulation, and the data should in theory be more complete for all the economic activities covered by the regulation and for all enterprises regardless of size. The results will be published in partnership with the Enterprise DG, which should provide the funding. There may be problems because of difficulties and constraints in connection with the processing of confidentiality. Another point to be made is that the report on the statistics compiled in accordance with Regulation 58/97, dealing mainly with their quality and the burden on enterprises, will be submitted by the Commission to the Council and Parliament in 2000. As for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), 2000 will be marked by the changeover solely to data from the Regulation after a three-year period (reference years 1995/96/97) during which both previously compiled data on SMEs and new data were used. Collection and processing will be fully merged with that of SBS data. The specific publications in this field will be compiled in partnership with the Enterprise DG.

**Steel statistics:** Ongoing collection, dissemination and analysis of ECSC steel statistics.

Implementation of a proposed Commission decision for a reduction in the volume of data collected in the ECSC questionnaires, in line with changing policy needs. This will involve adaptation of the data processing system, because of the changes to questionnaires. Rapid return of aggregate information to data suppliers via a web site. Publication of first results from the 1998 five-yearly survey of installations. Migration of processing and internal dissemination systems to open systems. Presentation and discussion of a proposal for

steel statistics after the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002, in the context of the Commission's general needs for statistics on key goods and service industries. Collection of basic steel statistics for candidate countries. Restructuring and adaptation of publications on steel statistics in line with Directorate D's general publication policy.

Prodcom: Work on improving timeliness, confidentiality, data quality control, harmonisation of methodology, dissemination (Europroms) will continue. The number of aggregates should also be increased significantly (to 4 000 headings).

Short Term Statistics: Implementation of the regulation. Analysis of derogations. Improved data collection and dissemination system. Contribution to Euro-Indicators projects: improvement of service statistics.

### **Activities of other organizations:**

#### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):**

UNIDO, in collaboration with OECD, will continue to assume responsibility for the collection of global key industrial statistics: UNIDO being responsible for non-OECD member countries while OECD collecting data from its member countries and providing them to UNIDO.

The UNIDO annual questionnaire will be sent out to non-OECD countries. UNIDO will continue to encourage national data providers for electronic data transmission. After screening, if needed, adjusting and supplementing with UNIDO estimates, the compiled national data on key industrial statistics will be stored, as they are now, in the three respective Industrial Statistics databases in accordance with the individual reporting systems, the 3-digit level and 4-digit level of ISIC(Rev.2) and ISIC(Rev.3). In addition to those three databases, UNIDO will continue to maintain its database on industrial demand/supply balance statistics at the 4-digit level of ISIC(Rev.2) and that on industrial statistics by establishment size. In addition to the maintenance and expansion of the statistical databases, UNIDO plans to develop related metadata system (its concept and prototype design was developed in 1999 already) to support the statistical databases.

The annual time series which UNIDO compiles and disseminates refer to selected key industrial statistics for production employment and investment and are arranged in accordance with 3- and 4-digit levels of ISIC (Rev. 2 and 3). It is expected that most of the countries would have made a switch-over from Rev.2 to Rev.3 of ISIC by the end of the reference period. This implies that the annual update of the ISIC(Rev.2) 4-digit level database would have to be terminated in the near future (The ISIC(Rev.2) 3-digit database will be maintained by updating it with converted data from ISIC(Rev.3) 4-digit data.

UNIDO will continue to develop its System of Industrial Development Indicators (SIDI) which development was initiated in 1998. Currently thirty indicators (global in scope) are included in the system but the number of included indicators may increase during the current reference period. The included indicators can be classified broadly into three categories relating to; (1) performance (level, structure, and changes of output and trade), (2) resource base of the industrial development, and (3) selected fields of the general environment in which industry is developing, in particular, the social realm and the natural environment. Using the computer system underlying the SIDI, indicator time series would be expanded and the number of country cross sections would be increased.

#### **Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): Activities:**

Collection, processing and publication of data on industry in Commonwealth countries:

Monthly, for output in kind of the main types of industrial products and consumer goods (bearing in mind the nomenclature according to which the data are submitted to international organizations) and for the value and value indices of industrial output;

Quarterly, for the volume and indices of industrial output by main sector of industry;

Annually, for output of the main types of industrial products by product category;

Preparation of analytical reports on the situation and development of selected sectors of industry.

### 3.12 ENERGY STATISTICS

**Objectives over the next several years:** To coordinate the integrated compilation of statistics on energy; to promote the use of internationally agreed concepts and definitions; and to ensure proper linkages between energy statistics, other fields of economic statistics (e.g. conventional industrial statistics and transport statistics) and environmental statistics.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Consistent, integrated data on energy statistics - flows of production and consumption - compiled according to agreed frameworks. Assessment of whether different databases for energy statistics are needed. Dissemination from time to time of updates to existing standards and methods for the compilation of energy statistics. A PRODCOM/Energy list will be drawn up and published by Eurostat.

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

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 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 2000 to June 2002:**

OECD-IEA/Eurostat: Tentatively a joint meeting on energy statistics in 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Renewable energy sources, 22 September 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Combined Heat and Power, 13 October 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Energy Statistics Committee, June 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Energy Statistics Committee, June 2002

**Rapporteur:** OECD/IEA

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** No ECE-OECD/IEA-Eurostat joint meeting is planned in the next bi-annium. The shared work on data collection will continue as before.

Secretariat resources: Minimal.

**Activities of OECD:** The International Energy Agency (IEA) collects and maintains numerous databases on energy supply, transformation, demand as well as on energy prices and taxes for all OECD Member countries and for many non-OECD countries.

For OECD Member countries, the IEA collects annual statistics on oil, natural gas, coal and electricity through joint OECD/IEA-UNECE-Eurostat questionnaires. These questionnaires include import and export of energy by origin and destination. The IEA also collects monthly oil statistics to support, among other things, the emergency preparedness measures which would be implemented in case of an emergency situation.

The International Energy Agency publishes nine annual publications and two quarterly publications. In 1998, it published its second edition of a new publication on CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fuel Combustion.

In 1999, the book on Energy Statistics and Balances of Non-OECD Countries has been divided into two volumes, one on energy statistics and the other on energy balances.

The IEA also produces monthly, quarterly and annual diskette services.

On 23-24 November 1999, the IEA organised jointly with UNECE and Eurostat a meeting of energy

statisticians from Member countries. The objective of the meeting was twofold: to propose a few changes to the four joint annual questionnaires, and to learn of experiences from selected Member countries on the necessary adaptation to the evolving energy market (liberalisation, impact of Kyoto Protocol, ...).

Several changes were proposed to the questionnaires by the participants to the meeting. The main changes deal with the addition of a fifth questionnaire on Renewable and Waste, and more detailed information on CHP.

Several countries expressed their concern about the difficulty for them to continue providing the same quality and details of information as in the past, since liberalisation leads to more fragmentation of the market and confidentiality issues.

Based on the comments received, the questionnaires will be adjusted and resubmitted to the member countries for final review in Spring 2000 prior to finalisation in July 2000.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 45 - Energy and raw materials statistics*):

The collection of monthly and annual statistics will be continued in 2000. The collection of gas and electricity prices according to the Council Directive will be carried out on a half-yearly basis. The existing statistical system for energy will be reviewed in collaboration with the Member States and its adequacy under the new constraints and challenges (liberalisation, environment) will be examined.

The surveys on cogeneration and renewable energy with their important environmental implications will be continued. The survey on energy consumption in the tertiary sector will be completed across the entire Union. Statistics on energy efficiency will be also collected.

Following the completion of the current project on the revision of the energy statistics systems of the CEEC countries, the geographical coverage will be extended to candidate countries.

With reference to the various activities over the 2000-2002 period:

- a) The following work, forming the backbone of the activities of energy statistics will be carried out: compilation of energy balances; short-term trends on energy; gas and electricity prices.
- b) Furthermore, the following projects, either new or in progress, will be implemented: extension of geographical coverage to incorporate statistics from the CEEC countries and the Baltic States; review of the energy statistics system taking into account the environment and the liberalisation of energy markets; development of indicators for the evaluation of the effectiveness of competition; development of a set of indicators of sustainable energy development; annual survey on renewable energy sources; survey on combined heat and power plants; energy consumption in the tertiary sector; development of a set of indicators on energy efficiency.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):** CIS-STAT collects and publishes data on the electric power balance.

### 3.13 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STATISTICS

**Objectives over the next several years:** To compile integrated statistics on the conception, development, appropriation, diffusion and application of new technologies to the production of goods and services; to describe statistically the role of science in the national innovation systems of member countries and the linkages between science and technology; and to maintain and improve the set of internationally agreed standards and conceptual frameworks for the compilation of such science and technology statistics including for R&D, innovation, patents, human resources for S&T and the technology balance of payments.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** To continue to develop and improve surveys of technological innovation and the associated indicators notably via the preparation of the 3rd CIS, and where

necessary improve the Oslo Manual. To improve various aspects of the Frascati Manual for R&D surveys. To update and expand existing methodologies and surveys in order to provide better indicators of the internationalisation of S&T and its application and to improve regional breakdowns within Member countries. To improve the existing methodology in revising the Canberra Manual for HRST and further develop statistics and indicators on HRST notably on their mobility as a vector of flows of knowledge within and between economies. To continue analytical work on patents and where necessary improve the Patent Manual.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The important work being undertaken on the preparation of manuals (e.g. the Frascati Manual on research and development, the Oslo manual and the Canberra manual) in this field.
- Problems in joint data collection to be resolved: Data collection activity by the OECD has been cancelled for the time being. There is therefore no action to suggest.
- Future action in joint data collection (Information Society Statistics): See PE 3.11.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

**Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

Eurostat: Working Group: Innovation statistics, 25-26 September 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: R&D and Innovation statistics, 27-29 November 2000

**Rapporteur:** OECD

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** None

**Activities of OECD:** The OECD work on science and technology (S&T) statistics is carried out under the aegis of the Group of National Experts on S&T Indicators (NESTI) of the Committee for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP). This Group meets formally once a year and organises workshops on specific topics. These meetings and workshops are planned to match those of the corresponding Eurostat experts. Over the next two years the activities will mainly focus on the following: (i) Management and/or development of internationally comparable statistics on resources devoted to R&D (revising aspects of the OECD international methodology for R&D survey, the Frascati Manual), technology balance of payments and patents published in "Basic S&T Statistics" and "Main S&T Indicators", R&D expenditures by Industry, Patents by Industry and Technology groups (improving methodological interpretation of patents statistics via analytical studies); (ii) In cooperation with Eurostat, methodological and statistical work will be pursued on the measurement of Human Resources devoted to Science and Technology and on innovation indicators based on the exploitation of member countries innovation survey; and (iii) Development of "a new generation of indicators which can measure innovative performance and other related output of a knowledge-based economy", as mandated by OECD countries' Ministers in charge of Research and Technology.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 73 - Science and technology*):

The new Council Decision for 2000-2004 will be put into force and will be the basis for the work in this field.

Normal activity will continue with improvement of the harmonisation and the comparability of regional R&D data. The work will focus on the measurement of high technology sectors and their products (employment, external trade, and patents). Feasibility study will be launched in order to check the availability of data sources, which may permit the construction of S&T data, by gender. A pilot project will be released for the implementation of an operational and statistical European patent database.

Better coordination of R&D and innovation surveys will have high priority in particular the existing cooperation with OECD.

The second Community Innovation Survey will be finalised with the analysis based on the survey.

Two statistical projects will be launched with the participation of and financing from the Research DG and the Information Society DG: in partnership with the Research DG and subject to existing agreements on financial mechanisms, Common Basis on Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CBSTII), that will cover the creation of several S&T databases and the preparation of the third report on S&T indicators; in partnership with the Information Society DG: Statistical Indicators on the New Economy (SINE).

In association with the Information Society DG the following tasks will be carried out: an innovation conference is planned by the end of the year 2000; the preparation of the third Community Innovation Survey (CIS) will be finalised based on the evaluation of CIS 2 with a particular attention paid to the problem raised by the confidentiality of data; CIS 3 will be launched in 2001.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT): New measures:** In the period 2000-2002, CIS-STAT will continue its consultations with national statistical services concerning arrangements for statistical observation of scientific and technological work on the basis of the accepted international standards for scientific statistics.

In the third quarter of 2000 it will prepare a report on 'Scientific Research and Scientists in Commonwealth Countries'.

**Electronic Discussion Group on Information Economy:** This Group is concerned with the impact of information technology on the economy and society. This ranges from issues over industrial classification (the differences between NAICS and ISIC for instance), definitions of the ICT sectors and of electronic commerce, the identification of indicators appropriate to the new policy issues and the collection of data, to name only four aspects. There is extensive analytic and policy work going on throughout the OECD on electronic commerce and this was the subject of a Ministerial Conference, in Ottawa on 7-9 October 1998. The importance of work on measurement and quantitative analysis in this area was stressed as a priority by Ministers. A Working Party on Indicators for the Information Economy is actively pursuing statistical work and will next meet on 21-22 April 1999. A great deal of material is already available on the OECD web site at <http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/it/index.htm>. The division of the OECD responsible for work in this field, the Information, Computer and Communications Policy Division, would be prepared to host and moderate an EDG on this topic as one means of taking the work forward.

Contact person: Andrew.Wyckoff@oecd.org

### **3.14 BUSINESS REGISTERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To promote the use of business registers and general purpose survey frames for business surveys; to disseminate information about the best practices used by countries in the construction and maintenance of business registers; to assist transition countries in constructing sampling frames, in maintaining their coverage and quality with particular emphasis on new business accessions and changes, and in defining their structure and major applications, particularly in the area of statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises and in the long run, to develop techniques for obtaining full information on the demography of enterprises; to promote the harmonization of the coverage of business registers and the concepts used, and of the uses of business registers.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Occasional bulletins with details on standard frame contents (Eurostat); methods, costs, and pitfalls related to the construction of frames (Roundtable on



Business Frames); dissemination of the Roundtable papers (Eurostat); and a record of technical assistance projects particularly related to the upkeep and maintenance of business frames and area files with business lists. There is a need for training on the definition and application of statistical units in business registers and on the use of business registers as a coordinated survey tool. Although this need is particularly striking in the case of CITs, it is not limited to this group of countries.

**Attention of the Conference was drawn to the following:**

- The important progress that has been made in the development of business registers by countries in Europe over the course of the last few years.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 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 2000 to June 2002:**

ECE-Eurostat Work session on the use of the statistical unit in business registers (June 2001)

Eurostat: Working Group: FEBI, FEBS, UNICE, Eurostat, NSIs, 3 November 2000

**Rapporteur:** Eurostat

**Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** Joint UN/ECE-Eurostat Work session on business registers (June 2001) to consider: (i) How to improve links between statistical business registers and administrative sources; (ii) Quality issues and methods to improve various aspects of the quality of business register (iii) Experiences in developing a single business register in member countries; (iv) Cooperation between various users of statistical business registers within national statistical offices; (v) Problems with statistical units in business registers.

ECE collects data from non-EEA countries for the inclusion in the Eurostat database.

**Activities of OECD:** None

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 24 – Registers*):

The priority on this theme will continue to be quality: the quality of registers and variables, and also the quality of statistical units, and the establishment of business registers in the Member States. The register recommendation manual should be completed and published (19 chapters). An agreement on an operating definition for complex enterprises and the way of describing them should have been reached, and this will clearly show the difference between a group of enterprises and a complex enterprise. Agreements will have been reached on the supply of information about the ownership of legal units, the possibility of linking information on secondary activities with knowledge about KAUs, and links with Intrastat. A draft Commission communication on administrative sources with a view to making their use easier in the Member States, as well as the provision of certain rules of conduct to ensure the comparability of these sources.

**Activities of other organizations:**

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

**The Roundtable on Business Survey Frames:**

**Purpose:** To provide a forum for the exchange of views and experiences and the conduct of joint experiments bearing on the development, maintenance and use of sampling frames for business surveys

(business registers). The Roundtable is an informal body and participation is on a voluntary basis. Participants, however, are required to contribute to the program of the meeting. The Roundtable's mandate does not emanate from a formal body but it could, on the basis of its discussions and/or experiments, make a recommendation to a formal body (e.g. the UN Statistical Commission) concerning, for example, the consideration/adoption of certain practices or standards.

Most recent meeting: September 27 to October 1, 1999 in Paris, France. Topics discussed at the Paris meeting: Electronic Business (defining businesses engaged in it, and electronic reporting of statistical information); Business demography; Technology (applications for business registers and to integrate business surveys); Globalization; Quality of business registers; Use of Business Register as central instrument for all administrative registration by French businesses (observation and discussion of an actual field application in a Regional Office)

Products: Technical papers produced and discussed at the first twelve meetings are available on a CD-ROM. The host agency updates an Internet site with the most recent documentation after each meeting.

Next meetings: New Zealand, fall of 2000 (dates to be confirmed); Washington, United States, October 2001; and Lisbon, Portugal, October 2002.

Contact person: Mr. Richard Barnabé, Director General, Classification Systems, Statistics Canada, Jean Talon Building 13 B 7, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0T6. Telephone: 613-951-9850; Fax: 613-951-0411; E-mail: barnric@statcan.ca.

For information on the meeting in New Zealand in the fall of 2000: Mr. Tom Woodhouse, Statistics New Zealand, Private Bag 4741, Christchurch, New Zealand. Telephone: 64 3 374 88 30; Fax: 64 3 374 87 59; e-mail: tom\_woodhouse@stats.govt.nz

Recommendation to the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications: The members of the Roundtable have discussed the information requirements that arise from the increasing globalization of the economy, and the implications of these requirements for business survey frames. One important aspect that arose from the discussion is the very high desirability of having similar industry (or activity) codes, for enterprises operating in several countries, in the registers or sampling frames of all the countries in which these enterprises operate. The members of the Roundtable, therefore, encourage the Expert Group to foster harmonization or greater convergence among the major industrial classifications.

### **3.XX OTHER WORK IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

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

- OECD's work on endeavouring to produce internationally comparable data on public sector pay statistics for OECD countries.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:** None

#### **Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Rapporteur:** Not applicable.

#### **Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:**

**Activities of ECE:** None

#### **Activities of OECD:**

- a) Short-term indicators: Maintaining the Main Economic Indicators database. This database contains monthly and quarterly statistics for OECD Member countries on a wide variety of economic areas. It provides statistical information needed by economic analysts, policy makers and business. Reviewing and

improving the contents of the database in order to maximise its relevance for today's short-term economic analysis as well as for emerging new key areas of analysis and policy making. Working with ECE, IMF, ILO and Eurostat for the development of effective international standards for presentation of statistical metadata, and increasing the coverage and quality of statistical metadata, whilst at the same time minimising the reporting burden of member countries, are part of this improvement. Ameliorating the relevance, timeliness and presentation of the printed and electronic monthly and weekly publications that are derived from the Main Economic Indicators database, and which cover monthly and quarterly economic indicators, business and consumer surveys, and leading indicators. Incorporating short-term indicators for certain non-member countries into these publications in 2000. Promoting further coordination and streamlining of data collection activities by the various OECD Directorates involved in the collection of short-term economic statistics, with the objective to reduce the reporting burden on agencies in Member countries and to increase the efficiency within the OECD. Working with ECE, IMF, ILO and other international organisations in the development of manuals for the compilation of consumer prices and producer prices and working with Statistics Netherlands, ISTAT, CIS and the ILO and NSOs in the preparation of a manual for the measurement of the non-observed economy.

The following two metadata publications are envisaged for 2000, Standard Sources and Definitions and Comparative Methodological Analysis.

b) Public sector statistics: To support comparative analysis of the public sector and its management, a set of data on the size and structure of employment in general government will be developed, that yields more international comparability than is currently possible. Beginning with consultations in a few countries, an analysis will be carried out of a range of concepts, definitions and data collection procedures. On this basis a method for generating the desired data, from existing building stones, will be set up and successively applied to an increasing number of countries.

A permanent computerised database on public sector pay in OECD countries provides, on a country by country basis, an annual series on pay trends. Data are collected on individual remuneration, based on the method of typical employee, as well as on aggregate pay bills, total compensation and corresponding employment.

c) Business tendency surveys: Works with CITs to develop qualitative measures of economic activities by promotion of such techniques in the areas of business tendency and consumer surveys.

d) Technical cooperation with developing countries: Provides statistical support to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and to the International Working Group on External Debt Statistics (IWGEDS); these cover resource flows to developing, CEEC and NIS countries and norms and definitions for measuring and reporting the stock of external debt and reconciliation of debt flow data with balance of payments and debt stock data. Maintains the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and external debt statistics and coordinates these with the export credit data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System. Supplies comparative data on individual donor performance.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 18 – Statistical coordination, 57 - Other economic statistics*):

Coordination activities will focus on three aspects for 2000:

- The implementation of procedures for verifying and disseminating concepts and definitions will continue on a broader basis. It will be possible to assess the initial results on the basis of the first methodological manuals published using the "Business Methods" framework and the CODED base.
- The coordination of Eurostat activities by means of setting up Focal Points should be improved further. This improvement should take the form of more frequent publication of 'Newsletters' highlighting coordination problems detected at the start of the year. Work should start in several areas under the Focal Points system, including improving the coherence of labour market statistics. At the same time, there should be a thorough review of results and collection methods for the Prodcom regulation for a report to the SPC.
- Eurostat external coordination with Commission DGs will focus primarily on the Internal Market DG, in the form of discussion of accounting standards (as a source of statistical information) at international

level and at European level (accounting forum), as well as through the definition of a set of indicators for the internal market scoreboard. There would be closer relations with the FEBI under the CEIES.

- Lastly, 2000 will see the implementation of a work programme to further define the information needed to measure the extent of globalisation and to prioritise user needs. OECD will collaborate with Eurostat on this work.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

**UN Statistics Division:** UNSD is facilitating the work of so-called 'city groups', in order to address issues identified by the Statistical Commission as critical problems. UNSD will continue to encourage countries to actively participate in the discussions of the various groups. It will also disseminate information on the groups and their activities widely. Detailed information on the groups and their activities is available at UN Web page (<http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/citygrp/>).

#### **The following informal groups have been constituted:**

- Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics ("Canberra Group"), see PE 3.1;
- Electronic Discussion Group on Intangibles, see PE 3.1;
- The Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, see PE 3.1;
- The Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, see PE 3.8;
- The Ottawa Group on Price Indexes, see PE 3.9;
- Electronic Discussion Group on Information Economy see PE 3.13;
- The Roundtable on Business Survey Frames, see PE 3.14;
- The Sienna Group for Social Statistics and Social Monitoring, see PE 4.11 a);
- The Paris Group on Labour and Compensation Statistics, see PE 4.4;
- The Canberra Group: Expert Group on Household Income Statistics, see PE 4.7 a);
- The Rio Group on Poverty Statistics, see PE 4.7 a); and
- The London Group on Environmental Accounting; see PE 5.2.

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