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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat  
Meeting on National Accounts  
(Geneva, 26-28 April 2000)

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

1. The joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat Meeting on National Accounts was held in Geneva from 26 to 28 April 2000. It was attended by Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America. Japan, Mexico and South Africa were present under article 11 of the terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Representatives of the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) attended. Representatives of the United Nations Statistical Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), The Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the International Monetary Fund also attended.

2. The provisional agenda was adopted.
3. Mr. Stephen Penneck (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman.

#### **ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting on the basis of invited papers and supporting papers:

- (a) What is required for 1993 SNA implementation?;
- (b) FISIM - examine results of experimental calculations;
- (c) Price and volume measures;
- (d) Measurement of capital stock;
- (e) Changes in inventories;
- (f) Information items.

5. During the afternoon of 25 April 2000, an informal meeting of national accounts experts from the CIS countries was organised by the UN/ECE and OECD.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE MEETING**

6. Recommendations for future work are given below. Other conclusions that the participants reached at the meeting on the above topics will be presented (in English only) in a separate report to be prepared after the meeting and distributed to participants. These conclusions will also be distributed, on request, to other interested persons.

#### **RECOMMENDED FUTURE WORK**

7. The meeting recommended that a Joint CIS/ECE/OECD Workshop on national accounts, with a focus on issues of interest to the CIS countries be organised in a CIS country in 2001. The Workshop would be open to all member countries of the three organisations.

8. The meeting also recommended that a further Joint ECE/OECD/Eurostat meeting be organised in the spring of 2002 in Geneva. The following substantive topics were considered of greatest interest for possible inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting on national accounts:

- (a) Policy uses of national accounts;
- (b) Quality and reliability of national accounts;
- (c) Implications of the new handbooks on CPI and PPI on national accounts;
- (d) Quarterly national accounts(consistency of time series, seasonal adjustments, early estimates);
- (e) Supply and use tables: practical application;
- (f) Capital investment(including software);
- (g) Price and volume measures of services.

9. The meeting recommended that the ECE secretariat in co-operation with other international organisations undertake the following surveys:

- (a) Methods used for producing early(advance) statistical estimates;
- (b) Best practices in estimating service lives of fixed assets;
- (c) 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.

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