Eurostat

Unit A5 Phare

Fourth Meeting of the

Management Group on Statistical Co-operation

14 - 15, March 2002

Luxembourg, Bech building
Room Ampère
Start: 10.00 am

Draft Agenda

(Document MGSC/2002-2/01)

Point 1.1 of the Agenda

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate A: Statistical information systems; research and data analysis; technical cooperation with Phare and Tacis countries
Unit A-5: Technical cooperation with Phare and Tacis countries

Management Group on Statistical Co-operation
Fourth Meeting on 14 - 15, March 2002
Luxembourg, Bech building, room Ampère, start 10.00 am
MGSC/2002-2/01
Draft Agenda

NW/11.1.2002

It is intended to restrict the official meeting to 14, March whole day and 15, March morning. The afternoon is then available for bilateral meetings of all types, practical issues concerning the Phare or CARDS programme etc. For example an informal meeting can be held restricted to certain countries with common issues.

1. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1.1 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Document MGSC/2002-2/01 Agenda of the meeting

Delegates are asked to approve the proposed agenda or to suggest amendments.

1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Document MGSC/2002-2/02 Minutes of MGSC meeting March 2001

Delegates are asked to approve the minutes, which have been circulated long time ago.

1.3 INFORMATION FROM THE LAST PGSC MEETING

Document MGSC/2002-2/03 Minutes of last PGSC meeting October 2001

Delegates are asked to take note of the decisions of the PGSC meeting.

1.4 ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

Nothing foreseen at the moment

2. COMMISSION POLICY ISSUES

2.1 REFORM OF THE COMMISSION AND IMPACT TO EXTERNAL AID

Document MGSC/2002-2/04 (may be replaced by oral information)

In the framework of the internal reform of the Commission also a new structure is envisaged

for the organisation of external aid. Facts known will be presented and the impact on the different statistical programmes analysed.

2.2 IMPORTANT SPC ISSUES

Document MGSC/2000-2/05 (may be replaced by oral information)

The practical implementation of the follow-up of the request for deeper integration into the ESS decision structures is reviewed, especially the access to SPC documents. Experiences in this framework shall be exchanged.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

This agenda item regroups general points for information (rather fresh news) and discussion of the group. Normally oral information will be given. Given the large number of interventions, no one should exceed 2 minutes.

A round table of both beneficiary countries and Member States shall serve for exchanging news in order to ensure better co-ordination. No written contributions are requested.

Furthermore, if present at the meeting, other international organisations may present their co-operation efforts in the area concerned. From this side written contributions are highly welcome, albeit as room documents.

4. ACCESSION RELATED ISSUES

This point shall cover all issues related to accession specifically.

4.1 ENLARGEMENT PROCESS FOR STATISTICS

Document MGSC/2002-2/06

Information is provided about the general status of negotiations and the enlargement process as a whole in preparation of first Accession Treaties.

4.2 PERMANENT COMPLIANCE MONITORING, COMPLIANCE DATA BASE, GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS, PUBLICATION

Document MGSC/2002-2/07

A progress report about the operation of the compliance data base and the underlying mechanisms will be submitted for discussion. The status and experiences gained from global assessments will be reviewed. A first outline of the publication concerning the description of the statistical systems of candidate countries will be presented.

Oral information will be provided concerning the future of the Programme Secretariat.

4.3 EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

Document MGSC/2002-2/07A

A short status report is provided about this project.

5. PHARE PROGRAMME RELATED ISSUES

This point shall cover all issues related to the operation of the Phare programme.

5.1 PHARE STATISTICS 1999 BUDGET

Document MGSC/2002-2/08

Situation and perspectives of this programme, in its final stage of implementation are provided. Current problems shall be reviewed as well as perspectives of full utilisation of this exceptionally large programme. Where applicable, corrective measures shall be discussed and decided.

5.2 PHARE STATISTICS 2000 AND 2001 BUDGET

Document MGSC/2002-2/09

A global overview over the status and plans for these two programmes is provided.

5.3 PHARE STATISTICS BUDGET 2002 AND BEYOND

Document MGSC/2002-2/10

The 2002 programme, currently in preparation, is presented with its components. Being the last of the current three year period, a discussion/brainstorming is required about future programmes, taking account of accession perspectives and possible differentiation among candidate countries. Focus for new programmes will move towards integration and no more to support the pre-accession process.

5.4 INFORMATION ON PHARE NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Document MGSC/2002-2/11 (if available)

Eurostat provides an overview about current and planned national Phare programmes.

5.5 NEW GRANT MECHANISM FROM PHARE 2000 ONWARDS

Document MGSC/2002-2/12 A, B, C, ??????

This point will require a lot of time and attention from participants. It covers new mechanisms both for beneficiaries and member states.

The different ways of implementing technical assistance from the 2000 programme onwards are presented and discussed: working with beneficiaries, member states, other experts, various types of activities. Draft standard documents will be presented and discussed for grant agreements.

6. CO-OPERATION WITH CYPRUS, MALTA, TURKEY

Document MGSC/2002-2/13

This point regroups all items concerning the co-operation with the countries above. For each of the three countries specific issues will be presented, especially the status of preparation of dedicated co-operation programmes. It cannot be excluded at the moment of drafting the agenda that mechanisms of pre-accession aid also change for these three countries in the future.

7. CO-OPERATION WITH WEST BALKAN COUNTRIES

7.1 NEW CARDS REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Document MGSC/2002-2/14, explanations and terms of reference

Eurostat informs the participants on the status of preparation for the new CARDS programme and intended activities. Draft terms of reference are submitted for information. There shall also be an exchange of views about implementation mechanisms including the role of the different actors like Member States, Eurostat, beneficiaries.

7.2. NATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE WEST BALKAN REGION

Document MGSC/2002-2/15

Eurostat provides an overview about current and planned national CARDS and Phare programmes. The implementation mechanism in each country will also be mentioned.

7.3 OTHER CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES

Document MGSC/2002-2/16

As largest donor for statistical co-operation, Eurostat has a very important co-ordination role. A first survey on the donor's activities in statistics in the Western Balkan countries was launched in the beginning of 2001, and followed-up by another questionnaire in November 2001 to both beneficiary countries and donors identified in the first survey. The results of these surveys will be discussed and disseminated among the delegates.

7.4 OTHER WB ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Document MGSC/2002-2/17

This document presents the Global Assessment Seminar in Dubrovnik in June 2002 and the CARDS Policy Group in Belgrade in November 2002 (draft agendas, purpose etc.).

8. OTHER POINTS

To be completed as appropriate