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Or. Eng.

DES/NI/85.1

MEETING OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS EXPERTS

To be held at the Château de la Muette, Paris,  
from Wednesday, 29th May to Friday, 31st May 1985,  
commencing at 10.30 a.m. on the first day

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of the discussion.
2. Flexibility in the national accounts

Documents DES/NI/85.2 and DES/NI/85.3 prepared by the OECD Secretariat and the United Nations Statistical Office, respectively, review the issues raised in the paper, Flexibility in the System of National Accounts, presented at the 1983 OECD national accounts meeting by three members of the Netherlands Central Statistics Bureau. The basic question here is whether the next version of the SNA should retain its present form or be restructured to consist of a simplified set of core accounts to which building blocks could be added to meet various analytic needs.

3. Discovery and use of mineral reserves

The document DES/NI/85.4, prepared by the Secretariat, examines the present treatment of subsoil deposits in the SNA. It argues that instead of showing discoveries and depletion of mineral reserves as reconciliation items in the balance sheets, it may be better for some purposes to include them in the flow accounts. The effect of this proposal would be to raise GDP by the value of discoveries, but to reduce National Income by the excess of depletion over new finds.

4. Other proposed changes to the SNA

The document DES/NI/85.5 prepared by the Secretariat, describes proposals for relatively minor changes to the SNA. These concern the definition of resident households and the calculation of consumption of fixed capital with respect to roads, dams and similar government assets.

5. Price Indices for Computer Equipment

The document DES/NI/85.6, which has been prepared at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, examines various theoretical and practical issues in the construction of price indices for deflating final expenditures on computer equipment. Room Document No. 1 contains replies from Member countries in response to a questionnaire about their present methods of deflating outlays on computer equipment.

6. Services

Within the OECD Secretariat a number of studies are under way on various aspects of the "service economy". The document DES/NI/85.7 prepared by the Secretariat describes these projects and considers the possible implications of the growth in service activities for the review of the SNA.

7. Other topics

a) Purchasing Power Parities: The Secretariat will present an oral report on Phase IV (1980) of the International Comparisons Project, and on the work currently under way to calculate PPPs for 1985.

b) Quarterly National Accounts: The OECD publication "Quarterly National Accounts" now contains quarterly estimates of GDP for OECD-Europe, the EEC and the OECD area as a whole. These zone totals include estimates of quarterly GDP for countries that do not presently prepare such data themselves. The Secretariat will describe how these estimates are obtained.

c) Date of recording taxes on company earnings: There is considerable interest at the OECD in calculating after-tax profits and rates of return. A problem that arises here is that direct taxes recorded in a given year may have been levied on company earnings from earlier periods. Country experts will be invited to explain the timing relationship between operating surplus and taxes, and to suggest how post-tax earnings can be estimated for their countries.

d) Tourism statistics: The Tourism Committee of the OECD organised a meeting on tourism statistics in February 1985 to examine how data on tourism could be more closely related to national accounts statistics. The report on this meeting, and the questionnaire that was subsequently circulated to Member countries, will be made available to participants who will be asked for their comments and suggestions on this work.

8. Other Business

a) Dates of future meetings and expert groups.

b) Other.