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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

STATISTICS DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

Working Party on National Accounts

ACCESSION PROCESS: REVIEW OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2008

To be held on 14-16 October 2008
Tour Europe, Paris la Défense
Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the first day

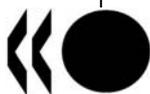
The paper details the progress made to date with the reviews required under the accession process of the national accounts of candidate countries.

This document has been prepared by David Roberts, OECD, and will be presented under item 4 of the draft agenda

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ACCESSION PROCESS: REVIEW OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2008

Start up

- Introductory letters outlining the proposed review sent 18 April 2008 (Chile) and 29 April 2008 (Estonia, Israel, Russia and Slovenia).

Objectives:

- Assess the quality of the annual and quarterly national accounts estimates available in the candidate countries and their comparability with data available in OECD member countries.
 - Compliance with SNA93.
 - Meeting ECO and STD minimum data requirements.
 - Matching data provided by the last six countries to join the OECD (Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Slovak Republic and South Korea).
- Include candidate countries in the annual and quarterly national accounts data bases.
 - To allow other directorates, particularly ECO, to carry out their reviews and assessments.
 - To enable STD to assess consistency and coherency of the annual and quarterly national accounts estimates.
- Not to impose too heavy a response burden on candidate countries.
 - Use information already provided to other international organisations (IMF, Eurostat and UNECE).
 - Take into account the situations of individual countries. For example, Estonia and Slovenia are already EU member states, while national accountants in Russia need to have everything translated into Russian.

Quality of national accounts estimates:

- Coverage: the extent to which annual and quarterly national accounts estimates meet the requirements of ECO and STD: candidate countries to complete the OECD's annual and quarterly national accounts questionnaires indicating with Xs (not with data) the aggregates and sub-aggregates covered and the years and quarters for which data are available.
 - Only Chile and Israel required to do this. Information on Estonia and Slovenia taken from Eurostat. Information on Russia obtained from UNECE.
 - Questionnaires were sent 6 May 2008 and returned 13 June 2008.

- Compliance: the degree to which the annual and quarterly national account estimates comply with the concepts, definitions, classifications and recommendations of SNA93: candidate countries to complete a questionnaire (follow-up discussion during country visits).
 - Only Chile, Israel and Russia required to do this.
 - Questionnaire were sent 6 June 2008 and returned 27 June 2008.
- Exhaustiveness: the extent to which estimates of the GDP are exhaustive: candidate countries to apply the Eurostat tabular approach to measuring exhaustiveness to their production account (implementation to be discussed during country visits).
 - Will facilitate the assessment of principal sources (business register, tax data, enterprise surveys, household surveys, etc.)
 - Probably only Chile and Russia required to do this. Estonia and Slovenia may be required to update the exercise they carried out for Eurostat. Israel may be required to update the estimates it made in the framework of Medstat.
 - Documentation sent 22 May 2008. Israel sent estimates of non-exhaustiveness for the years 2000 to 2006 on 24 July 2008.
- Quality of the price and volume measures: candidate countries to complete a questionnaire (following discussions during country visits).
 - The questionnaire has been sent to Chile, Israel and Russia. Chile and Russia have agreed to complete and return the questionnaire by 15 October 2008, Israel by the 30 November 2008.

Inclusion in data base:

- Candidate countries to complete the OECD's annual and quarterly national accounts questionnaires with data. Time series should at least start with 1995.
 - Questionnaires were sent to Russia (20 May 2008) and to Chile and Israel (18 June 2008). Israel returned the completed questionnaires on 1 September 2008 and Chile on 25 September 2008. Russia is expected to return the completed questionnaires by 31 October 2008.
 - Quarterly data for Israel has been entered into the national accounts database (17 September 2008). Most of the annual data for Israel has been entered too (30 September 2008).
 - Annual and quarterly data for Estonia and Slovenia were obtained from Eurostat and entered into the national accounts databases (31 July 2008).

Country visits:

- Chile: 21 to 23 July 2008: visited by Paul Schreyer and Nadim Ahmad.
- Russia: 15 to 17 September 2008: visited by David Roberts.
- Israel: 22 to 26 September 2008: visited by Paul Schreyer and David Roberts.
- Slovenia: 17 and 18 November 2008: to be visited by Paul Schreyer and David Roberts.
- Estonia: 1 and 2 December 2008: to be visited by Paul Schreyer and David Roberts.

Other meetings scheduled:

- OECD National Accounts Working Party 14 to 16 (am) October 2008:
 - 16 (pm) October 2008: Chile, Estonia, Israel, Russia and Slovenia.
 - 17 October 2008: Chile.

Next Steps

- Enter annual and quarterly data for Chile and Russia into the national accounts databases (31 January 2009).
- Integrate Chile, Israel and Russia into OECD collections of annual and quarterly data (ongoing). Estonia and Slovenia are already sending the data they send Eurostat to the OECD as well.
- Prepare drafts of the reports on the national accounts reviews (28 February 2009).
- Second round of country visits as required to discuss, amend and elaborate the draft reports (March/April 2009).
- Finalise the reports on national accounts reviews and incorporate them into the first drafts of the assessment reports (30 June 2009).
- Discussion of the draft assessment reports with the candidate countries (July/August 2009).
- Prepare final drafts of the assessment reports (30 September 2009).
- Discussion of the assessment reports by the Committee on Statistics (October 2009).
- Finalise the assessment reports (November 2009).