

**Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the IWGPS
Geneva, 2 November 1999**

1. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. Young (ILO) and attended by Mr. D. Fenwick (UK), Mr. J. Astin (Eurostat), Mr. K. Zieschang (IMF), Mr. Carl Obst (OECD), Mr. P. Hill (UK), and Mr. J. Karlsson, Ms. L. Bratanova, Mr. M. Pesut (all UN/ECE) and V. Stoevska (ILO).
2. **The agenda** was adopted with changes in the order of the items to be discussed. Items 5 and 7 were moved for discussion before the items 3, 4 and 6 so as to allow the members of the IWGPS participating in the TEG-PPI to leave early. Mr. Obst's proposal to add an information item on the work of the Voorburg Group on Services was accepted as a new item and placed before item 8.
3. **Report from the Ottawa Group Meeting.** After briefing participants about the outcome from the Reykjavik meeting of the Ottawa Group, the issues of the mechanism for contacting Ottawa Group members and the role the Ottawa Group will continue to play in updating of the Manual on CPI were raised once again. It was noted that individual direct contact with the members would be the best way of communication. It was suggested to put draft chapters of the manual on the WEB so that each member of the Ottawa Group can make comments on an individual basis.
4. **Contribution by International organisations.** The financial resources available for the revision of the CPI manual were discussed. Each organisation present indicated its financial commitment that could be available for the revision over the next two years.
 - IMF is providing more than initially indicated (US\$ 30,000) which will be used for paying the editor and two consultants.
 - ECE has already spent half of its funds on the editor and the rest will be used for the editor and the author.
 - Eurostat indicated no changes as yet in the initially indicated US\$ 30,000 but that this would be reviewed.
 - ILO indicated that some resources might be available providing that the work is completed by the middle of December so that payments would be made by then. It expects to have US\$ 10,000 for the next biennium.
 - OECD confirmed that there are no funds available for this exercise.It was stressed that co-ordination of the arrangement with different authors is necessary. At this point, a continuation of the meeting of the IWGPS later in the course of the main ECE/ILO meeting was suggested to clarify the situation concerning the co-ordination arrangements. It was expected that during the main meeting there would be many bilateral discussions concerning the allocation of the work to be done.
5. **Establishment of the TEG-PPI.** Mr. Karlsson, in the absence of Mr. Zieschang, informed the Group about the establishment of the TEG-PPI whose Chairman is Mr. Paul Armknecht. The draft outline for the PPI manual was prepared by IMF who will be secretariat of the Group.

It was stressed that in order to co-ordinate the progress of work of the two, the chairman of the groups and the editors should keep in touch.

To facilitate communication the membership of the TEG-PPI should be circulated to the IWGPS.

6. **Status of the revision process of the CPI manual**
- Final Draft Outline will be prepared by Mr. Obst on the basis of few comments received.
 - Draft Glossary of terms is available for comments and contributions
 - Reference material: no one has submitted any.
 - Authorship of the chapters: to be finalised during the TEG/CPI Meeting.
- As there are no candidates for Chapter 14 it was decided to split it among different authors. As for the material available it was noted that Mr. Zieschang's paper is excellent but that the length should be reduced by himself or by the editor.
7. **Establishment of the reference group for revised CPI manual.** The mechanism for contacting different regional and national organisations was explained. Once the draft chapters are available they would be sent for comments to the nominated individuals. It was noted that comments would not necessarily be taken into account. Possibility of organising regional meetings on CPI was discussed as well.
8. **Work plan for TEG-CPI.** It is envisaged that the draft manual will be available by the spring 2001. The time schedule will be discussed in more detail at the TEG-CPI.
9. Mr. Obst informed the group about the work being done by other organisations and groups like the Voorburg Group on Services, preparation of the OECD manual on hedonics to be written by Mr. Jack Triplet and stressed the necessity of co-ordinating our work with these groups.
The Group was informed about the preparation of the Eurostat Methodology for International Trade Price Statistics.
10. **Other business.** ILO's offer to serve as a central agency for co-ordinating the work so to make sure that everything is going on by schedule and information is circulated between organisations was accepted.
11. In accordance with the proposal from the item 4, a continuation of the meeting of the IWGPS took place on 4th November 1999. In addition to the above mentioned persons the meeting was attended by Mr. Paul Armknecht (IMF) in his capacity as chairman of the TEG-PPI. The meeting discussed the following:
- work programme
 - the distribution of responsibilities for chapters of the new CPI and PPI Manuals,
 - financial arrangement with authors and co-ordination of these arrangements.
- In addition to this:
- draft outline for the CPI manual was briefly discussed and proposals for changes were made,
 - necessity of exchange of information on members of the TEGs, minutes from the TEGs's meetings, allocation of chapters and funds for both manuals was stressed.
- At the very end, the meeting was informed that ILO would prepare a report on the work of the IWGPS for the next session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2000.