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Tel. (352) 4301-33543, Fax (352) 4301-32139

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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR WHITWORTH

Subject: ACC Meeting - reaction to comments of OECD

Please find below the background on the issue you raised concerning the CCET register:

Eurostat's CONTACT database (Co-Ordination Network for Technical Assistance to Countries in Transition) provides complimentary information to that contained by the OECD's CCET register.

CONTACT was set up in Eurostat by a decision of the Intersecretariat Group of International Organisations providing assistance in statistics to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs).

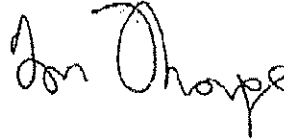
The aim of the database vis a vis the Intersecretariat Group is to act as a co-ordination tool for technical assistance to the CEECs. As such it is intended to contain details of all technical assistance activities in statistics of the G24 countries and the international organisations. The database task was given to Eurostat, as Eurostat has been given the role of co-ordinator for assistance in statistics to the CEECs.

CONTACT contains operational information on each co-operation action (such as study visits, programming missions, training courses), and thus provides much more detailed information than the CCET register, which is needed to co-ordinate individual interventions in the statistics field. In this respect, its purpose and organisation is much the same as the IMF's database for activities with FSU countries.

CONTACT does not contain financial information on the co-operation of non Commission donors, and only covers the statistics field, and does not therefore duplicate the role of the CCET register in providing information on assistance in all sectors, including the associated financial contributions.

In order to reduce the burden on responding partners, and to profit from the information that will be available on CONTACT, we would like to be able to update the CCET register automatically for the statistics sector, in much the same way as do the IMF for their database. We are keen to co-operate with the OECD in order to solve any technical and organisational problems in order to make this possible.

Please let me know if you need anything further.



Jan Thorpe

Copy: K. Löning