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**Fifth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
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United Nations Secretariat, NLB Conference Room E**

**GDP AND BEYOND  
STATE OF PLAY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Paper prepared by Eurostat

*(for discussion)*

**Briefing Note:  
for the UNCEEA meeting – agenda item 6**

**GDP and Beyond – state of play in the European Union**

The GDP and Beyond activity of the European Union has based its background on three different activities: [the GDP and Beyond Communication](#) of the European Commission of 20 August 2009, the Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress ([the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report](#)) and thirdly, the Communication from the Commission, [Europe 2020](#), A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

As a response to these initiatives, the activities of the European Union has gone in different directions:

- The creation of an interdepartmental working group, co-chaired by the Director Generals of Eurostat and DG Environment and with participation of a large number of Commission services. Within this interdepartmental group, a Wiki forum has been created in order to identify related actions carried out by different services as well as specific statistical needs expressed by them.
- The second activity is the Sponsorship group on Measuring Progress on Well-being and Sustainable Development co-chaired by the Director Generals of Eurostat and INSEE which met for the first time on 19 May 2010. In annex, you will find the Terms of Reference and Mandate of the Sponsorship Group as well as the Mandate of the specific Task Force on Environmental Sustainability which is more relevant to the UNCEEA. Note that the first meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for 29 June 2010.
- The third line of work is internal to Eurostat where a coordination group including several directors has been created under the direction of the Director General. An outcome of this group has been the development of a short term action plan (in annex) which is currently being implemented.

Eurostat will keep UNCEEA informed of developments in this area.

Annexes:

- Short term action plan
- Mandate of Sponsorship on Measuring Progress, Well-Being and Sustainable Development
- Mandate of TF on Environmental Sustainability