

Conclusions

ISWGNA Management Group Meetings

24 January and 20 February 2011

Present:

Eurostat: Pieter Everaers (24 Jan. and 20 Feb.)
IMF: Adelheid Burgi-Schmelz (24 Jan. and 20 Feb.), Kim Zieschang (24 Jan.)
OECD: Martine Durand (24 Jan. and 20 Feb.), Paul Schreyer (24 Jan. and 20 Feb.)
UNSD: Ivo Havinga (Chair, 24 Jan. and 20 Feb.), Herman Smith (24 Jan.)
World Bank: Shaida Badiee (24 Jan. and 20 Feb.), Barbro Hexeberg (24 Jan.)

1. Report of the ISWGNA to the 2011 UNSC

Requested a draft oral introduction of the ISWGNA report to the 42nd session of the UNSC is to be prepared by the Chair. Subsequently, agreed to the revised draft through email exchange after incorporating the suggestions obtained during meeting on 20 February.

2. Clarification on emission permits

Endorsed the recommendation of the ISWGNA:NA on the clarification of the treatment of emission permits in the SNA and supported the proposed recommendation: “to record the payments of emission permits at the time the emissions occur as taxes on production on an accrual basis. The timing difference between cash received by government for the permits and the time the emission occurs gives rise to a financial liability (accounts payable) for government and a financial asset (accounts receivable) for the polluter. The difference in the tax value of the permit and the market value of the permit represents a marketable contract (non-produced non-financial asset) for the holder”.

Decided the ISWGNA clarification is to be published in the first edition of the 2011 SNA News and Notes in February 2011 in accordance with the update procedures adopted by the UNSC.

3. The FISIM Task Force

Agreed with two meetings of the international ISWGNA Taskforce on FISIM proposed to be held in March and June and concluded that the international ISWGNA Task Force on FISIM should go ahead with its first meeting scheduled for 3 to 4 March 2011 at IMF Headquarter, Washington D.C. Moreover, agreed that UNSD and OECD co-chair the first meeting and OECD chairs the second meeting. Furthermore, agreed that the European Taskforce on FISIM will merge with the international ISWGNA Taskforce on FISIM at the second meeting.

4. Advisory Expert Group

Agreed with the proposed composition of the AEG and requested UNSD as current Chair of the ISWGNA to go ahead with inviting the proposed members. Also, agreed with the broad outline of the AEG agenda for the first meeting to cover guidance on global manufacturing; research issues like FISIM and other issues on research agenda as mentioned in Annex 4 of the 2008 SNA; forthcoming compilation guidance on the implementation of the SNA (WB, Eurostat, IMF, UNSD); and possible training material. Moreover, supported the first AEG meeting and proposed it to be held in September 2011.

5. Training material

Welcomed the proposed creation of a knowledge base on training material for the 2008 SNA implementation programme and acknowledged the need for accessibility of best practices in training material/courses across a wide range of statistical domains. Furthermore, agreed to provide an inventory of training material/courses available at each institution for the training portal on the ISWGNA website.

6. Chair of the ISWGNA

Reaffirmed the good practice of a rotating Chair among the member organisations of the ISWGNA for which OECD would in March 2011 take over the chairmanship, but understood that the current human resource situation in OECD would make this transfer now difficult and therefore welcomed the acceptance from OECD to take up the position of Chair of ISWGNA only after the first meeting of the AEG, expected to be held in September 2011.

7. Posting of conclusions of ISWGNA:MG meeting

Agreed to henceforth make available the final conclusions of the Management Group meetings on the ISWGNA website hosted by the UNSD.