

# Minutes ISWGNA Meeting

Teleconference  
30 August 2011

## Participants:

Eurostat: Gallo Gueye  
Leonidas Akritidis  
John Verinder  
IMF: Kim Zieschang  
OECD: Nadim Ahmad  
Peter van de Ven  
UNSD: Ivo Havinga  
Herman Smith (chair)  
Gulab Singh  
Nathan Menton (minutes)  
World Bank: Barbro Hexeberg

### 1. AEG consultation on emission permits

The ISWGNA discussed the draft note prepared by UNSD on the outcome of the AEG consultation on "The Recording of Emission Permits Issued Under Cap and Trade Schemes in the National Accounts" AEG/C01.2011. The ISWGNA noted that a large majority of AEG members agree with the recommendation by the ISWGNA as reflected in the SNA News and Notes number 30/31. However, the ISWGNA agreed to provide further guidance and practical examples to deal with the impact on the current balance and concerns relating to data availability, and indicating the precise code of the tax on production to be used. The OECD and Eurostat will revise the draft note on the consultation, by 2 September, for consideration by the ISWGNA. The note will then be circulated to the AEG for further comment.

### 2. Advisory Expert Group (AEG)

The ISWGNA briefly discussed and agreed with the UNSD proposal to create a restricted website to facilitate consultations with the AEG. The restricted website will allow all AEG members to view comments posted by other members to facilitate meaningful discussion.

### 3. FISIM Task Force

The OECD informed the ISWGNA about the main conclusions of the FISIM Task Force meeting held on 5 and 6 July in New York, which . These conclusions are in line with those of the European Task Force on FISIM. The FISIM TF meeting on 5-6 July concluded that: FISIM should be calculated by at least two groups of currencies (national and foreign currency). A term premium should be included in FISIM, and a single reference rate should be used. Testing will be conducted on the various methods for calculating the reference rate. A strong majority also concluded that credit default risk should be excluded from FISIM. The advantage of the quantity

approach to calculating volume measures of FISIM is acknowledged, but it is also recognised that it is data intensive and difficult to determine relevant weights for the indicators. The TF prefers the deflation method and in particular the price index approach rather than the unit value index approach.

A preliminary report will be drafted by the OECD. At the same time detailed guidance on the testing by TF members, including formulas, will be provided to the TF. Based on comments received on each of these issues it will be decided whether an additional meeting will be needed. It was also agreed that a preliminary report would first be made available and the final report to come after the testing on reference rates was complete. A timeline for completion of these reports will be addressed once members participating in testing are able to properly evaluate the time needed for these tasks.

Eurostat reported that it is currently developing a questionnaire for European countries to test the methods for calculating reference rates and default risk as discussed in the report of the European Task Force. Eurostat will provide the final questionnaires to the TF in order to facilitate testing in other countries. The outcome of the testing is expected by the end of June 2012.

#### **4. Handbook on Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the SNA**

UNSD reported on the outcome of the meeting on United Nations/European Central Bank Draft Handbook on National Accounting: “Financial Production, Flows and Stocks in the System of National Accounts” that took place on 7 and 8 July 2011. UNSD and ECB will incorporate the comments on the Handbook and circulate the revised draft by the end of 2011 to the review group (all participants of the meeting agreed to review the revised draft) before the Handbook is circulated for global consultation and discussion at an expert group meeting to be organised in the first half of 2012. The principals of the Handbook and the MFSM will meet before the end of September 2011 to discuss a mechanism for ensuring consistency in the guidance provided in the areas where these two publications overlap. The handbook will incorporate the recommendation of the FISIM Task Force on the calculation of FISIM when that becomes available. The Handbook will be finalised during 2012.

The OECD will draft a note, by 30 September, on an appropriate mechanism for mutual consultation around methodological documents according to the decision by the ISWGNA at its previous meeting that such guidance need to be developed.

#### **5. OECD/IMF Meetings**

The OECD informed the ISWGNA about the meeting of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics Working Group on Sectoral Accounts (G-20 Recommendation # 15), September 12-13, 2011 and the OECD meetings of the Working Parties on Financial Statistics and National Accounts, 24-28 October 2011 to be held in Paris. The OECD working party meeting will devote considerable time on 2008 SNA implementation issues. The OECD therefore requested contributions on this issue from the other ISWGNA members.

## 6. Friends of the Chair Group on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 SNA

UNSD informed the ISWGNA on the survey conducted by the FOC on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 SNA. It is expected that the FOC will provide the results of their assessment to the Statistical Commission in February 2012.

## 7. The Chair of the ISWGNA

As agreed by the ISWGNA, the OECD will chair the ISWGNA from 1 September 2011. The UNSD will still act as secretariat of the ISWGNA. UNSD will discuss the administrative matters for the handover of the chair to the OECD. It is expected the OECD will further elaborate on the programme of work for the ISWGNA and the AEG in due course. These work programmes will also be reflected in the ISWGNA report to the Statistical Commission. The ISWGNA report to the Statistical Commission is due in November 2011. The Secretariat will circulate an outline of the report for feedback from the ISWGNA. The ISWGNA agreed that the AEG also need to be consulted on programme issues.

## 8. Request for clarification and new SNA research issues.

The ISWGNA agreed that requests for clarification and new research issues that are submitted by the constituents of the ISWGNA should be distributed to the other ISWGNA members for discussion at the next meeting of the ISWGNA to determine the appropriate action according to the updating procedures of the SNA.

## 9. To do list

Action	Due date	Responsible	Status
ISWGNA meetings	2011	OECD	In progress
Submit issues papers for meeting of ISWGNA Task Force on FISIM	24 June	All	Done
Submit report of the European Task Force on FISIM	24 June	Eurostat	Done
Prepare and submit draft concept note and agenda for review meeting on Handbook on Financial Production, Stocks, and Flows and circulate the documents to the ISWGNA	6 June	UNSD	Done
Revise draft concept note for the AEG work programme to ISWGNA	1 July	UNSD	Done
Minutes of July FISIM meeting	2 September	OECD	
Revised note on Emissions permits consultations	2 September	OECD/Eurostat	
Contributions to the OECD working party meetings	30 September	All	
Send a copy of the EU questionnaire to be used in FISIM methodology testing	30 September	Eurostat	
Note on guidelines for mutual consultation around methodological documents	30 October	OECD	
Outline of ISWGNA report to the Statistical Commission	14 October	UNSD	
Interim report of the ISWGNA FISIM Task Force	31 October	OECD	
Complete FISIM methodology testing in EU and provide report on the results.	June 2012	Eurostat	