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**Fifth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Environmental-Economic Accounting  
New York, 23-25 June 2010  
United Nations Secretariat, NLB Conference Room E**

## **ACTIVITIES ON ENERGY ACCOUNTS BY EUROSTAT**

Paper prepared by Eurostat

*(for discussion)*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EUROSTAT

Directorate E: Sectoral and regional statistics  
Unit E-3: Environmental statistics and accounts



## **Briefing Note:**

### **"Activities on energy accounts by Eurostat" for the UNCEEA meeting – agenda item 8**

According to the revised European Strategy for Environmental Accounting (ESEA-2008) Eurostat is supposed to develop Energy Accounts (also sometimes referred to as NAMEA Energy) in the medium term (2-3 years or by 2010-2011).

The objective is to establish Energy Accounts (with a priority on physical flow accounts) in the European Statistical System (ESS). Broadly, the roadmap for this development process comprises 3 phases:

- (1) Development of methodological standards in close relation to international developments such as SEEA-E, IRES, InterEnerStat, SNA/ESA, EU legislation, and IEA/Eurostat Manual.
- (2) Data collections from NSIs on a voluntary basis (testing phase).
- (3) Including/adding Energy Accounts into/to the legal base for Environmental Accounts.

In 2009, Eurostat's Working Group "Environmental Accounts"<sup>1</sup> decided to set up a Reflection Group on Energy Accounts. The overall objective of this Reflection Group was to identify and prepare conceptual and methodological issues related to Energy Account which shall be addressed at coming meetings of Eurostat's Task Force<sup>2</sup>.

In June 2009, Eurostat prepared a 'paper for consultation' and distributed it among the Reflection Group members asking for their comments. The consultation paper listed eight questions representing clusters of conceptual and methodological issues. During summer 2009, the Reflection Group members commented on these eight clusters via a written procedure.

Based on these comments, Eurostat drafted conclusions and recommendations to the Task Force and asked another time for written comments in December 2009. This final version takes into account the comments gathered during the second consultation round.

The Reflection Group's final discussion paper can be found on Circa<sup>3</sup>: document 5.03.

<sup>1</sup> At its meeting on 23-24 March 2009; agenda item 4.

<sup>2</sup> A first NAMEA Task Force meeting focussing on energy accounts took place 6-7 May 2010.

<sup>3</sup> [http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/envirmeet/library?l=/07\\_namea\\_07052010&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/envirmeet/library?l=/07_namea_07052010&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

On 6-7 May 2010, the NAMEA Task Force met for the first time to discuss energy accounts. The objectives were:

- (1) to discuss and define a set of physical supply and use tables for energy (energy PSUTs);
- (2) to start discussing problematic compilation issues in view of developing standard compilation methods;
- (3) to agree on a "roadmap" for the implementation of energy accounts in the European Statistical System (ESS).

With regards to objective (1) the Task Force agreed upon a set of "result tables" and made progress in taking conceptual and methodological basic choices. In order to ensure coherence with the SEEA-E as much as possible, the Task Force was informed of the current draft of the SEEA-E and was invited to provide comments on it.

With regards to objective (2), the Task Force entered into a fruitful exchange of solutions for problematic compilation issues such as e.g. combined heat and power plants, international transport, road transport, and service industries.

The Task Force also found agreement on important next steps (roadmap):

- For energy PSUTs, a period of voluntary reporting is most likely to come. This period is being regarded as necessary to gather experiences, to further harmonize compilation methods, and to mature the questionnaire and compilation sequence.
- The Task Force clearly advocated the scenario that NSIs will fill questionnaires completely – i.e. no pre-filling by Eurostat.
- Nevertheless Eurostat will have to gap-fill the questionnaire, i.e. establish a routine for the non-reporting countries in order to develop EU-aggregates and provide a dataset that can be used for Input-Output and other types of analyses.
- Eurostat manages the writing of the *Manual for Energy Accounts* (2011).
- Next steps to be taken in summer/autumn 2010:
  - (a) Final layout of "result tables" - detailing the columns/rows headings/classifications.
  - (b) The "result tables" will be tested: A "real" data set provided by Statistics Denmark<sup>4</sup> will be used to populate the "result tables". By this exercise, one will test the coverage, completeness, consistency and feasibility of the "result tables".

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<sup>4</sup> The Danish data set is exactly the same data set which is employed in the draft SEEA-E facilitating comparisons.

- (c) Prepare a document with the tables and choices the Task Force made to be submitted to the Working Group (March 2011) – one may consider a written procedure if an endorsement by WG should be needed
- (d) Next TF meeting in May/June 2011 – focus on draft Manual

All Task Force documents and background information is available on Circa: [http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/envirmeet/library?l=/07\\_namea\\_07052010&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/envirmeet/library?l=/07_namea_07052010&vm=detailed&sb=Title)