

Statistical programme of the European Communities 1989 – 1992




eurostat

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Foreword

Whilst maintaining the tradition of previous programmes Eurostat has charted new waters with its Statistical programme of the European Communities 1989–1992. The Commission communicated the programme to the Council and the Council adopted a Resolution about the programme for the first time. This programme is thus the first one to be published and introduced to a wider public.

There are good reasons for Eurostat's decision to adopt a highly visible approach to the publicizing of its 1989–1992 programme:

- The European Community is about to enter into a new phase. The single market will soon be completed. The European dimension will be the prevalent dimension for public and private decision makers. Eurostat is thus faced with a considerable increase in demand for harmonized statistical information. The implementation of this programme will enable Eurostat to meet this challenge effectively.
- The community of European statisticians is also about to enter into a new phase. We must move jointly towards the creation of a European statistical System. The implementation of this programme will lay the foundations for such a system, creating an improved organizational structure, advancing common standards, enhancing the planning process, setting the right priorities and ensuring the necessary resources.

The statistical programme of the European Communities should be seen as a pledge from European statisticians to provide the statistical information necessary for a proper functioning of the European Community in general and the single market in particular.

Yves Franchet
Director-General
of Eurostat

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The statistical programme of the European Communities 1989–1992

Main themes of the Community statistical programme and its limits and priorities

A. The background and political priorities

'The coming into force of the Single European Act has relaunched the European Union. The achievement of the internal market will free the powers of growth which are necessary to assure the competitiveness of Europe, as well as the economic and social cohesion of the Member States. To this end, it serves to reinforce the Community's ability to act.' These are the opening lines of the text, approved in Brussels at the summit meeting of Heads of State or Government, which relaunched the process of European integration.

The Single European Act has set the Community six objectives: the achievement of the single market, economic and social cohesion, a common policy of scientific and technological development, the strengthening of the European Monetary System, the introduction of a European social dimension, and coordinated action on the environment.

These six policy objectives are the latest step on the road to European Union embarked upon more than 30 years ago, which has found practical expression in common policies on, for example, coal and steel, agriculture, development cooperation, international trade relations, etc., as well as in consultations in other areas, such as social policy, energy, transport, industry or fisheries.

The Brussels and Hanover European Councils (February 1988 and June 1988 respectively) confirmed this trend, and the prospect of the single European market in 1993 is now an important factor in the plans of all economic and social operators in the Member States: businesses, households, trade unions, government and non-government bodies, etc.

The single market implies in the first place the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. There are, however, far-reaching

political and administrative implications as well. Policies which were previously pursued in a fragmented way will have to be pursued in an integrated way. Regulatory measures which were taken independently will have to be taken jointly. The single market will even give rise to new policies and add further dimensions to existing policies. The single market will thus be the single most important driving force towards further European integration for years to come.

This acceleration of integration has found practical expression in a decision to double the structural Funds (Social and Regional Funds and Agriculture Guidance Fund), which are intended to strengthen social cohesion and to enable the Community's less prosperous regions to catch up.

The European Council also decided to reform the system for financing the budget. The Community institutions, conscious of the financial demands resulting from this decision on the new system of own resources, have decided to reinforce the discipline and thoroughness with which budgetary matters are to be conducted.

One of the aspects of this budgetary discipline is the assessment of the impact of the sectoral programmes in order to measure their effects on and consequences for the social and economic fabric of European society.

Finally, as the Community will be present on the international scene as a responsible actor open to the world, this means that the Community would play a key role in the development of:

- the exchange with the traditional partners in the western world,
- the economies of the developing countries,
- the relations with the State-trading countries and their intergovernmental organizations.

In this context, the setting up, monitoring and assessment of common policies calls for increased coordination in the creation of a statistical infrastructure needed for this purpose. The aim must be not only to modernize the collection of data but, where necessary, to improve the reliability and consistency of the resulting information, extend its coverage and make it available more quickly. At the same time an important objective is to reduce the administrative burden on businesses. The overall aim is to provide the Community bodies (Commission, Parliament and Council), the national governments and all others involved in the market with a cost-effective statistical service which can help them to manage their affairs more effectively.

As a result of the work done over the past 30 years, it has been possible in certain sectors (agriculture, iron and steel, external trade etc.) to create a range of statistical programmes which are already very harmonized and comparable at European level. In other areas, such as national accounts, the methodological bases exist but still need to be implemented. New fields are opening up as a result of the prospect of the single market: the national statistical systems (national institutes and other public and private statistical bodies) and Eurostat will have to cooperate more and more closely to explore these fields and to

find the solutions which will enable the Community statistical machinery to meet the challenge of 1993.

B. New statistical initiatives

Information in general and statistical information in particular will be important if the single market of 1993 and all the Community policies which accompany it are to work properly.

Quantitative information is necessary not only for rational policy-making by the Community institutions, Member States' governments and other authorities, but also to increase consensus on economic and social issues. If statistics are to play their necessary part in this process, they need to be appropriate for the uses to which they are to be put, and accepted by all those concerned as an objective representation of the facts. The confidence of users in the objectivity of the statistics is particularly important. To meet these criteria we shall need energy, imagination and a high level of professional competence from those engaged in this work, the necessary financial resources and active support and cooperation at a political level.

Relevant statistical information is of great value to businesses. Their activities are expected increasingly to reach beyond national borders with the completion of the single European market and the creation of European companies. Thus an ever larger business clientele will be asking for ever more information as companies have to develop successful strategies for exploiting the opportunities offered and adjusting to the changes brought about by the single market. The growth of the European economy depends to a large extent on the ability of the businesses to meet these challenges of the single market. Relevant statistical information will undoubtedly enhance this ability. Where businesses are unable to meet these needs for themselves, there will be a necessary role for Eurostat and national statistical services.

The Community wishes to increase its effectiveness in this field by adopting, as in other infrastructure fields, a policy with the following objectives:

- to speed up the development of the statistical infrastructure necessary for the single European market to operate properly;
- to extend the coverage of Community statistics to include new fields of political action and public interest;
- to enable Community policies to be assessed and the corresponding budget resources to be effectively managed by developing reliable and up-to-date information at the necessary geographical levels;
- to promote the adoption of European statistical standards;
- to eliminate the barriers between the national statistical systems in order to construct an integrated European system.

Attaining these objectives requires thorough consideration of priority actions and the resources needed to carry them out, as well as overall planning of the activities to be undertaken.

Like other administrators and managers in government, those responsible for statistical services are faced by conflicting pressures:

- a growing demand for information while resources (particularly skilled professional resources) are often insufficient to meet these challenges;
- demands which require an immediate response while the long-term development of statistical systems cannot be neglected without damaging consequences.

This necessitates taking hard decisions about relative priorities. It may involve holding back or discontinuing existing work which no longer presents an interest or an advantageous cost/benefit ratio. The preparation of the programme for 1989–1992 provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at the problems and possibilities, and to identify the priority tasks on which we need to concentrate in the next few years. At the same time, the important work of looking for collection and processing methods which are based on more up-to-date techniques, and place a smaller burden on economic units, must continue.

From the operational point of view a new Statistical Committee, set up under a Decision by the Council of Ministers, will have as its main task that of assisting the Commission in the designing and implementation of programmes which reconcile national and Community priorities, needs and resources. It will have to take account of the special features of each Member State's statistical system in order to determine how quickly the necessary standardization of statistical information can be achieved. In particular, it will have to take account of the structural problems of those countries which have difficulty in keeping up with the increasing pace of standardization.

Furthermore, information on the Community will often need to be put into an international context so that it can be compared with information on its main trading partners. As – or more than – in the past, the Community will have a key role to play in the development of the statistical systems at world level. The revision of the system of accounts, classifications, world comparison projects, statistics on trade in goods and services etc. are at the centre of the discussions being conducted under the aegis of international organizations like the UN or the OECD. The new Statistical Committee will be responsible for coordinating the Community input to this work and giving it the necessary impetus.

C. The implementation of the policy on statistical information

Statistics can help the internal market to operate properly. Thus the support for the internal market has become a main Eurostat objective. It covers three broad types of action.

Firstly, the setting up of the new system of intra-Community trade statistics for 1993.

The removal of customs and tax barriers between the Member States will help to increase trade and to reduce the associated costs, but it will also mean that the administrative infrastructure which provides intra-Community trade statistics will disappear. The major national departments concerned, business associations and the Commission, however, consider that the aim should be to maintain a level of information very close to that of present statistics. Any replacement system will have to be compatible with the elimination of obstacles to trade within the single market and take account of the need not to increase the burden which supplying information places on firms.

Secondly, ensuring that statistical information on industrial and service enterprises is better adapted to the aim of transparency and to monitoring changes in the single market.

An assumption is that the statistical system must eventually be able to monitor all industrial and service activities and provide information which is pertinent, fresh and flexible for the use of all those involved in the single market. Since it is essential to reduce the burden on businesses, the statistical system will have to draw as widely as possible on the various administrative and professional sources.

This requirement will be met by a gradual extension to all the Member States of experience with business registers, in close association with other administrative registers, and by the use of sampling, estimation and collection techniques based on new technologies. The most pressing demands are for the development of statistics on services, at both global and sectoral levels, statistics on industrial products, shipping and air transport statistics and statistics on tourism. Energy statistics, which are already well developed, must be extended to cover new forms of energy and to ensure the transparency of the prices of energy products.

Thirdly, the creation of the information back-up needed for the development of a genuine European social area, with the aim of facilitating social dialogue.

There is an ever-increasing demand for Member State and regional figures on population trends and population structure in the Community, on participation in the world of work, on the extent and consequences of longer and longer periods of unemployment, and on typical or atypical new forms of employment. A link between employment and the possibilities of obtaining adequate professional training appears to be indispensable; knowledge of incomes, expenditures, wages and social security must be improved in order to support the Community in making its efforts to combat unemployment more effective and the new forms of poverty which are becoming more and more common, not only in the regions in industrial decline.

Community surveys, such as those on the labour force and labour costs, are already being carried out in the twelve Member States, and harmonized statistics are being produced in a large number of fields.

However, the whole range of information needs to be revised to take account of new developments, in particular the labour force survey, and to be extended so that trends can be better monitored. The possibilities of using new statistical techniques and including in the Community statistical system material which is only partly used at present need to be pursued more energetically. Household surveys, particularly the family budget survey, could play an important role in this respect.

The Community recently took policy decisions which require statistical information for their implementation, not only new statistics which, broadly speaking, are non-existent or are not sufficiently developed in a large number of, or even all, Member States but also statistics from sectors in which the collection of information is difficult and extremely costly in the short term.

The main objectives here are to take account of trade in services in international trade negotiations, to speed up the creation of a European financial area, to step up joint action on small and medium-sized businesses, to promote a programme of research and technological development, to implement a common policy on environmental protection, to promote a Citizens' Europe and to implement a policy for rural areas.

In some of these areas, at a time when Community policies were at an embryonic stage, the Commission began by collecting existing information from *ad hoc* studies or surveys in which the statistical offices were not always involved. As these Community policies are taking shape, the corresponding statistical activities must be coordinated within the Eurostat and NSI programmes.

With regard to service to the public, the approach to be adopted remains that of opening up more widely to the outside the Community's entire statistical machinery as an important element in the development of the new information policy. The statistical offices play a key role in the information market. This special role results from the degree of harmonization and standardization already achieved, in view of the considerable volume of well-structured information covering a large number of aspects of Community life. This information is available in various forms – hard copy and on line – and in several languages. In this context, if a Community policy on the dissemination of statistics is developed, it will provide backing for the policy and the priority action plan for developing the information services market.

Lastly, combined research into new statistical and data processing techniques enabling large series of data to be processed and a considerable volume of statistical information to be transmitted has led the Community's statistical services to play a pioneering role in the use of remote processing to process and disseminate information. This activity will have to be continued and intensified.

There is an important need to assess Community policies and support an effective management of budgetary resources. Sound decisions regarding the setting up or management of Community policies are

greatly assisted by the availability of reliable and timely statistical information. The same applies to assessing the impact of Community programmes.

Following the European Council of February 1988, which decided to double the Community structural Funds (Social and Regional Funds and Agricultural Guidance Fund), a comprehensive regulation on the reform of the structural Funds was adopted in June 1988. This regulation lays down the five priority objectives of the structural Funds and sets out, in the form of regional statistical indicators, the criteria for eligibility of the regions: regional GDP, unemployment rate and employment structure at NUTS 3 level. Implementing regulations currently being discussed by the Council refer expressly to other statistical indicators, in particular those taken from regional agricultural accounts. These legal bases and the considerable importance of the Funds places a greater responsibility on the European statistical system to produce the soundest possible statistical information.

Statisticians will help in this assessment which may require the conduct of surveys and compiling data at a more and more detailed geographical level. And this could involve high costs which the Community will have to assume by providing, from the outset of such programmes, for the necessary information coverage and its funding. The regionalization of statistics based on surveys, however, should be limited in view of the high costs involved in supplying detailed and sufficiently reliable data.

The revision of the common agricultural policy (CAP) has already led to a large increase in the demand for agricultural statistics, and this trend is bound to continue throughout this revision process, in which the structural programmes will play an increasingly important part. The recent decisions on budgetary discipline for agricultural expenditure – incomes, production quotas, stabilizers, and retirement from farming – all present a challenge to statisticians to implement a system of reliable and timely information to assist the authorities in their decision-making and to allow policies to be monitored and assessed.

The recently adopted decision to use GNP as a basis for assessing the contribution of the Member States to the Community budget has two major statistical implications:

- Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes will have to devote additional resources for assessing and, where necessary, improving the comparability of ESA aggregates between Member States; particular attention has to be paid to achieving a complete coverage of their economy;
- the use of national accounts aggregates not only for economic analyses but also for administrative purposes calls for reliable and accurate figures; an agreement about the revision methods used by the Member States has to be achieved in course of the improvement of statistical sources.

It is essential that GNP estimates should strictly adhere to ESA concepts and definitions so that this aggregate is comparable at Community level. If Member States were to adopt the ESA for the

national accounts, the likelihood of achieving this objective would be greatly improved.

The creation of the European internal market takes the Community from an economic zone, in which it was sufficient to harmonize, to a level of economic integration which calls for European standardization along the same strict lines as national standardization.

Compiling statistical information at Community level means that the value of the data is greatly increased, since they acquire greater importance for the national governments, businesses and all those involved in Community affairs. Comparisons with other Member States and with the Community as a whole become increasingly important as both the public and governments seek to assess their position and their progress in the social and economic field. Putting statistics on a Community footing produces added value as a result of the aggregation and harmonization of national data. This added value is extremely high and often underestimated. It is the result of the introduction of Community standards (common nomenclatures, classifications and methods) which enable the flow of comparable statistical information to be improved. The application of standards will be guaranteed through Community legal bases. The prospect of the internal market has given fresh impetus to work in this field.

At the same time businesses must be encouraged to participate in producing the information necessary for their market analyses and their management. Sound standards, well understood and well applied, produce information of value to the businesses themselves and encourage them to reply to statistical surveys. When these standards are more generally followed at national level, they will also have the significant effect of a reduction in the cost of converting figures to the Community systems.

As a result of these projects, uniform and up-to-date data will be available at Community level, thus enabling economic activity to be effectively monitored in the same way as for the United States and Japan.

There is a strong move towards an increasingly integrated European statistical system. As part of the implementation of the statistical information policy, speeding up the integration of the national statistical systems is not only a desirable aim but a real necessity. There are four reasons for this.

Firstly, the national statistical services are finding it more and more difficult to obtain the necessary funds for carrying out their programmes, and even more so when it comes to Community programmes.

It is therefore becoming increasingly necessary for these funds to be used more rationally, which means that statistical programmes and systems must be more thoroughly integrated to avoid any duplication of effort and to permit a reduction of costs per project. Some work projects in certain fields might, for example, be entrusted to specialized bodies in one or two Member States rather than being spread, with no real added value, over several countries. Or certain initiatives,

for example in the field of training, taken by one or other of the NSIs might be applied to Community statistics as a whole. Or lastly, common data processing resources might be developed in several countries in order to rationalize the costs of processing and disseminating the information collected.

Secondly, an integrated Europe requires that all those involved in the internal market should be placed on an equal footing as regards both the requirement to provide data and the availability of the information produced.

Although marginal in relation to the whole mass of administrative information collected from businesses and households, statistical information could reach proportions which are a considerable burden on society. If there is to be rationalization, it must be introduced on a harmonized basis throughout the Community to avoid discrepancies in the requirements for the provision of data. This means that national statistical programmes must be integrated and harmonized, particularly as regards major surveys. At the other end of the statistical chain, information is increasingly becoming a commodity whose usefulness extends beyond national frontiers. So it is essential for dissemination systems to be progressively harmonized so that all Community citizens have access to the fullest and most reliable information covering the whole Community.

Thirdly, the process of bringing the statistical systems of Member States into line with each other needs to be speeded up.

The successive enlargements of the Community have led to a slowing down of this convergence and thus of harmonization. It now looks as if it will take longer for harmonization between Member States to produce a reduction in costs, but this still remains a necessary objective. Considerable efforts will have to be made at Community level to enable the more recent members of the Community and those countries which are experiencing increasing difficulties as a result of the quickening pace of change to integrate more quickly into the Community. To achieve this it is necessary, on the one hand, for the Community to finance specific projects and, on the other, for those countries with the most highly developed statistical machinery to help the others by organizing training courses, pooling teams of methodologists, actively sharing research into new techniques, or developing data processing systems which can be adapted to specific operations which are common to all the countries, thus enabling available resources to be rationalized and redeployed.

Fourthly, national frontiers are, in some respects, becoming less significant for statistical purposes.

Trans-border regions will be of greater economic importance (e.g. Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg), and this will have to be reflected in the information collection process, since information may well be collected in one Member State and used in another (e.g. data on tourism, where there is a demand from both public and private operators in the Community's southern countries for information on the destina-

tions of holidaymakers from the north). Lastly, various aspects of economic activity are appearing in different Member States as economic agents become more 'transeuropean' (e.g. a company legally based in one country and operating in others). This is bound to affect the way in which information is collected.

D. Principles of cooperation between Eurostat and the National Statistical Institutes (NSI) of the Member States

The preparation of the statistical programme 1989–1992 has shown the necessity of reinforcing the process of cooperation between Eurostat and the NSI's. This cooperation process has to be geared towards developing a statistical information system for the Community and must be based on the following principles.

- The characteristics of each statistical system must be taken into consideration in the definition and application of Community statistical work.

It is desirable, therefore, to analyse how far the statistical harmonization which remains essential may be implemented differently as a function of the capacity and priorities of individual Member States (e.g. by making harmonization more flexible, variable speed 'Communitization'), whilst, at the same time, aiming for a basic language shared by the statisticians of Europe.

- Statistical work of a Community nature must benefit, in so far as is possible, from Community support.

It is desirable to continue the practice of the Commission's financial participation in Community statistical works; at least in their development phase, and most particularly for the smaller countries where Community requirements often create a heavy burden of work.

- The statistical systems of the weaker countries must benefit from the support of the Commission and of the stronger countries in so far as is possible.

It is desirable to continue, in the appropriate form and on the basis of existing resources, financial support for the development of the statistical infrastructure in these countries. It consists, equally, of developing exchanges between Member States, so that the weaker links can benefit from the stronger.

- The statistical requirements of the Commissions services must be coordinated by Eurostat.

In order to limit the development of Community statistics to the needs which are of essential priority it is desirable to avoid the duplication of requests for statistical information to the Member States by the different services of the Commission through ensuring the coordination of these requests by Eurostat.

- The development of requests for statistical information from individuals and enterprises must be accompanied by efforts to ensure the reduction in the burden of replying to the said request.

This can be achieved by several means such as: better coordination of requests; better utilization of administrative records; computerized collection of the data coming from the enterprises; etc.

E. The structure and presentation of the 1989–1992 statistical programme of the European Communities

The policy on statistical information was presented to the Council in the form of a communication from the Commission in May 1988. Its implementing instrument is the new 1989–1992 statistical programme set out below.

As in the past, the statistical programme of the European Communities coordinates the statistical activities of Eurostat, of the Commission's other departments and of the Member States, but now, however, as part of a previously defined policy.

This programme outlines the priorities and a timetable for the next few years, describes the tasks devolving upon the national services and the Commission during this period and the means required, namely the amendments to be made to statistics legislation and the budgetary resources, particularly for the most recent and the smallest Member States.

The 1989–1992 statistical programme of the European Communities is presented below in two ways. A first part 'Community policies and their statistical support' links the activities and projects (for definitions see section F) of the programme to the main Community policies. The statistical requirements are set out for each policy uncompleting both requirements already fulfilled and new requirements to be fulfilled. This part is divided into three main chapters dealing with statistical support:

- linked to the provisions of the Single European Act;
- for other Community policies;
- for the functioning of the Community.

Each chapter is broken down into more specific policy areas leading to the following structure for the first part:

- I. The single European Act*
 - I.A. The internal market
 - I.A.1. Standardization and confidentiality
 - I.A.2. Intra-Community transactions after 1992
 - I.A.3. Enterprise sector
 - I.B. Towards a social and economic area
 - I.B.1. Economic and social cohesion
 - I.B.2. Social area
 - I.B.3. Monetary union
 - I.B.4. Research and development
 - I.B.5. Environment
 - I.C. International affairs
 - I.C.1. External relations
 - I.C.2. Development cooperation

II. Other Community policies

- II.A. Agriculture
- II.B. Fisheries
- II.C. Industry
- II.D. Energy
- II.E. Services (including Transport and Tourism)
- II.F. Information

III. Functioning of the Community

- III.A. Own resources
- III.B. Infrastructure
- III.C. Staff management

A second part contains an 'Inventory of main statistical work in the Community' relating the work specified in the programme to the various Community services in charge. These are on the one hand Eurostat services and on the other hand services in other Directorates-General. This part gives a description not only of the work which will be undertaken in view of Community policies as presented in the first part but also of the work which is done by the statistical services of the Community for the public at large leading to the following structure:

1. Statistics under Eurostat's responsibility

- general economic statistics, national accounts and prices;
- international trade statistics, third countries and ACP countries;
- enterprise statistics;
- social and regional statistics;
- agricultural, fisheries and environmental statistics.

2. Statistics under the responsibility of other Commission Services

3. Informatics and Dissemination

In a separate document the Commission supplies details of each activity or project under the statistical programme, setting out the objectives, the policy reference, the implications for the Commission and the Member States, deadlines and timetables, any funding involved, and the methods of disseminating the information. This document, which is available from Eurostat, is the working tool for monitoring the work planned under the programme during the next few years.

F. Definition of terms in the statistical programme

Activities relate to the regular management and production of statistics due to the completion of projects launched in previous statistical programmes; projects refer to all the development work undertaken by the Office during the period of the programme to achieve specific statistical objectives. The projects are geared to either existing or new objectives. In the former case, they are referred to as

restructured projects, the aim being to produce existing statistics more productively by applying considerable resources for a given period. In the latter case, they are referred to as new projects, the aim of which is to produce a new body of data which are not yet available.

Community policies and their statistical support

Introduction

Statistics have played an important role in the European integration process over the last decades. Statistical information about the Community has supported the conduct of policies by Member States' governments, the Commission and other authorities, and fostered consensus concerning economic and social issues. Statistical information, however, has been of equal importance for the private sector as private sector activities have reached increasingly beyond national borders. A process towards a Community statistical system has thus been established whereby considerable progress has been achieved in many areas like trade, agricultural, steel, coal, energy statistics and national accounts.

Now the Community is on the move again towards further integration. Further social, and economic integration calls for a significant investment into the statistical infrastructure of the Community. More and above all more appropriate information capturing the essence of the economic and social life in the Community is urgently needed. Only four years separate us from the internal market. Many Community policy initiatives are under way. Thus the stage is set for a new initiative in Community statistics to be undertaken in view of the political initiatives.

This part of the document thus presents the activities and projects of the programme according to the main Community policies; the statistical requirements are set out for each policy, as regards both established practice and new developments.

Statistical support for the Community falls into three broad categories:

- support for policies linked to the provisions of the Single European Act;
- support for other mostly already established Community policies; and its
- support for the functioning of the Community institutions.

I. Statistical support linked to the provisions of the Single European Act

With the Single European Act the political agenda for the Community has been set for the forthcoming years. The accomplishment of the internal market has clearly taken centre stage. The Community will move with the accomplishment of the internal market towards a truly common and Community-wide social and economic area. However, the internal market will have a strong impact not only on the European economy but on the European society as a whole. This calls for policies which accompany the implementation of the internal market and assure social and economic cohesion. Finally beyond the important move towards further integration the Community will also be present on the world political scene as a decisive and responsible actor contributing to world economic growth through international cooperation.

The conduct of all these policies requires statistical information, in some cases entirely new information, in others improved information. Thus these three priority areas in Community policy are clearly reflected in the statistical programme of the Communities so that there will be no lack of information in those crucial areas.

I.A. The internal market

The Single European Act lays down a new range of objectives for the Community integration policy, most prominent the achievement of the internal market by the end of 1992. Creating an internal market calls also for a special effort in order to provide by 1992 at the latest the statistical information necessary for the smooth functioning of the internal market.

A whole range of projects in statistics will be launched in the years to come in view of the internal market: the existing system of statistics has to be advanced towards a real Community system of statistics through intensive work on the standardization of concepts and classifications; a post-1992 statistical system for intra-Community trade has to be developed replacing the current one for goods that will be swept away by the internal market; important gaps will have to be filled, most notably those caused by data confidentiality and security and those concerning information about enterprises.

I.A.1. Standardization and confidentiality

The single European market will lead to yet closer integration of the national economies. However, the European economy to which this will give rise is more than the sum of the constituent national economies. This has far-reaching consequences for the Community

statistical system. As yet major parts of this system are still fragmented and incomplete, although considerable progress has been achieved in recent years. Barriers between national systems still exist, but they must be overcome in the near future. Only then will the statistical system based on the collation of national statistics be transformed into a true Community system.

A Community system of this kind is indispensable, since data provided by a fragmented and incomplete system are only of limited use. This is a weakness that significantly impedes taking full advantage of the opportunities which the internal market will undoubtedly offer. It is therefore a weakness that must be remedied, since the Community is in dire need of the stimulus arising from the internal market.

Work towards standardization is concentrated on two areas: methods and classifications. Methodological work takes place in national accounts and in trade in goods, services and capital. The methodology of the European system of integrated economic accounts (ESA) is being further developed in order to facilitate links with balance of payments statistics and to establish a link between flows and stocks using balance sheets. Finally the purchasing power parities, an instrument to compare national accounts aggregates in real terms, will be improved and refined.

The harmonization of classifications of goods and economic activities worldwide and, more specifically, at European level is essential if statistics are to be comparable. Without harmonization on a European scale it is impossible to interrelate data on production, trade, employments and investments. This interconnection is indispensable, however, for obtaining as consistent an overall view as possible of the situation and structure of the European economy. Finally, the classifications of territorial units must be further developed in order to meet the demands of all the Community policies with a regional component. The worldwide harmonization of classifications is of great importance in the context of international negotiations.

The transition from a system which merely collates national data to a European system will be made easier if a uniform solution can be found to the questions of confidentiality and data protection. Only then will it be possible to supply the comprehensive statistical data required by the internal market.

Activity/project		
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C	<i>Classification of goods for external trade</i>	65
C	<i>Classification of countries</i>	65

N=new project. R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.A.2. Intra-Community trade after 1992

Trade between Member States is expected to grow as a consequence of the internal market. Information about intra-Community trade is regarded as important for both private and public operators. The conduct of many Community policies, most notably of those directed towards economic convergence, will have to rely on such information. Thus a system will have to be developed encompassing trade in goods and services as well as financial flows.

The implementation of the internal market implies that administrative and customs controls at the Community's internal borders will be abolished. The current system of intra-Community trade statistics, however, relies on the existence of customs controls. An alternative will have to be put in place because intra-Community trade statistics are important not only for the Community and Member States, but also for the business community. Eurostat has transmitted a proposal for a Council regulation to the Commission for approval concerning the statistics for trade in goods after 1992. This proposal determines the principles of the new data collection system taking into account the need to reduce the form filling burden for enterprises. The Commission has submitted this proposal in January 1989 to the Council.

The internal market is of particular relevance in the area of services. While information about intra-Community trade in goods has been available for many years, information about intra-Community trade in services has never been available in sufficient detail. Thus the statistical system will have to be extended to services. With the need to put the system for trade in goods on an entirely new basis there is an opportunity to tackle both goods and services trade with a more comprehensive system. The methodological aspects and the various potential sources of information are currently examined and proposal will be made to Member States.

Economic convergence in the context of the internal market, however, can only be achieved if equal access to an integrated capital market is assured throughout the Community. An effective conduct of

Community policy directed towards economic convergence requires information on the sectoral and geographical aspects of financial stocks and flow as well as on interest rates related to different financial instruments. Thus a system of financial statistics will be advanced in order to support the process of both capital market integration and economic convergence.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Statistics of trade in goods between Member States after 1992</i>	64
N	<i>Statistics on international trade in services</i>	65
N	<i>Survey on trade in services</i>	68
N	<i>Capital market statistics for a European financial area</i>	63
C	<i>International capital movements</i>	68

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.A.3. Enterprise Sector

Creating a truly European market requires increased transparency of the enterprise sector. The existing system for industrial enterprises is somewhat unsatisfactory even for current purposes and does not meet many of the new information requirements. A system for services enterprises is not even existing, instead information is provided in a piecemeal, spasmodic, and indirect fashion.

New avenues are being explored to establish complementary possibilities encompassing industrial and services enterprises amongst which registers and panels are most promising. Methodologies have to be adapted for industrial enterprises in order to accommodate technological trends, the growth of transnational companies, the externalization of services, etc. They have to be developed almost from scratch for services enterprises as an encompassing methodology does not exist.

An efficient system of enterprise statistics depends on the quality (accuracy, completeness, timeliness) of statistical returns from enterprises. This is much improved if there is an information feedback to professional associations and to firms so that the information collected is meaningful to enterprises and returned to them in an attractive way. Such a feedback can also contribute to an efficient collection process that does not impose too much of a burden on enterprises. Finally such contacts will help to clarify the statistical informations needs of enterprises operating in the internal market.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Panels and registers</i>	73
N	<i>Adapting the industrial statistics system to the needs of the internal market</i>	73
N	<i>General framework of services</i>	78

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.B. Towards a social and economic area

The internal market will change the European economy. These changes, however, will not be confined to the economic realm, instead the internal market will have a strong impact on the different European societies and will eventually support the creation of a truly European society, if the social and economic problems that come with these changes are addressed. This calls for a range of policies which accompany the implementation of the internal market.

These policies as defined in the Single Act will:

- assure an increased social and economic cohesion;
- foster financial and monetary integration;
- strengthen the technological position of the Community and thus its competitiveness; and
- address increasing environmental concerns.

The support of this wide range of policies calls for an equally wide range of statistical information. This need is clearly reflected in the Community's statistical programme set up in support of the conduct of these policies.

I.B.1. Economic and social cohesion

The creation of the internal market will benefit from a balanced social and economic development. The efforts of the Community to promote such balanced development are reflected in:

- the Community's intention to coordinate the economic policies of the Member States and to incorporate them into a common strategy for growth;
- the decision to reform and considerably increase the structural Funds, thereby attaching greater importance to regional and social aspects of economic growth.

The coordination of the Member States' economic policies is an important step towards creating a single European economic area. This coordination cannot be achieved, however, without accurate knowledge of the economic situation in the individual Member States and the Community as a whole. This poses a challenge to the statistical system, which will have to provide information for:

- a comparison of the economic situations in the Member States;
- an evaluation of the interdependence of Community countries;
- a thorough analysis of economic changes;
- an assessment of economic policy measures.

The European system of integrated economic accounts (ESA) is very much the cornerstone in the provision of this information. It is a system which, since its introduction in 1970, has provided a coherent framework for a wide range of statistical information. By being brought together in the ESA, this information has acquired a new quality. The ESA has proved its usefulness in the planning and implementation of Community policies not only generally in connection with

integration policy but also in such widely differing areas as agricultural policy or industrial policy.

The Community is currently cooperating with the UN on the further development of this system. Further improvements are made in view of meeting the Community's new objectives, particularly the achievement of the internal market. These improvements are indispensable for calculating the gross national product, which is now of major importance for fixing the Community's own resources. It also applies to input-output tables, which can help to assess the impact of Community policies, and to the accounts of the institutional sectors, particularly the general government sector.

Efforts are also being made to increase the periodicity of the economic accounts. The achievement of the internal market is bound to mean an increase in the mobility of capital as well as of goods and services. Sound short-term economic analysis is only possible, however, if this greater mobility is reflected in an increased periodicity of statistics. The development of quarterly accounts has met this requirement. Finally, the further development of the Community has led to a situation in which the European institutions themselves have acquired such an economic importance that they need to be introduced into the ESA as a unit in their own right.

The comparability of information, not only from the ESA but also from other areas, is increased by a series of price statistics and particularly by the purchasing power parities derived from them. The further development of purchasing power parities is therefore particularly important, not only for making appropriate price adjustments but also for comparing levels between the Community countries in real terms.

The objective is a comprehensive macroeconomic information system capable of meeting the demands of economic policy-making in a Community undergoing structural change. The further development of the ESA and the system of purchasing power parities is a step in this direction.

The reform of the Community's structural Funds is a cornerstone of the efforts to achieve greater social and economic cohesion in the Community. This reform is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- to promote development and adjustment in the structurally weak regions of the Community;
- to assist in the conversion of industrial areas in decline;
- to combat long-term unemployment, which has increased for all age groups;
- to help young people start a career;
- to adapt agricultural structures and develop rural areas.

This reform places additional demands, of both quantity and quality, on the statistical information system. Information is needed on Member States and regions which is comparable and enables the progress of structural programmes to be monitored and assessed. In many cases statistical indicators are important for the decision-making process itself.

The system of regional statistics must therefore be expanded in the next few years to cater for the increased importance of regional policy. The main objectives will be:

- to work out the regional indicators necessary for implementing the regulations on the structural Funds;
- to develop the whole range of information which will enable the Commission to analyse the social and economic situation and trends in the regions of the Community on the basis of statistics which are as comparable and up-to-date as possible.
- to improve the information of regional economic agents and to support the exchange of experience among regions in the Community.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
<i>R</i>	<i>Development of balance sheets</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>R</i>	<i>The Community labour force survey</i>	<i>82</i>
<i>R</i>	<i>Classification of territorial units (NUTS) and localities (LOC)</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Economic aggregates and quarterly accounts</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Sectoral accounts</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Economic accounts at regional level</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Branch accounts and input-output tables</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Economic accounts of Community institutions</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Consumer price indices</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Survey of final consumption prices (households and government)</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Price surveys on gross fixed capital formation</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Regional price surveys</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Financial accounts</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Financial balance sheets</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Balance of payments of the European institutions</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Social statistics at regional level</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Community investment grants</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Other regional statistics (transport, environment, energy, etc.)</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>REGIO database</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Regional agricultural statistics</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>N</i>	<i>Total income of agricultural households</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>DG II</i>	<i>Business survey on enterprises and households</i>	<i>101</i>
<i>DG XXII</i>	<i>Management system for the integrated Mediterranean programmes</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>DG XXII</i>	<i>Impact evaluation system of structural interventions</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>DG XXII</i>	<i>IFC database (Community financial instruments)</i>	<i>106</i>

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity
in charge of the activity:

DG II=Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

DG XXII= Directorate-General for the Coordination of Structural Instruments

I.B.2. Towards a social area

I.B.2.a. Growth of employment and combating unemployment

When the internal market without borders and with complete freedom of movement has been achieved by 1992, national economic policies should have been brought more into line with each other using the potential for growth in the Community to promote employment and combat unemployment. In the light of this objective, accompanying

social measures will become increasingly important. In addition to political actions, the observation and analysis of the changes in employment which occur in the various sectors as a result of the completion of the internal market and other structural changes should also be regarded as an accompanying measure. This observation will be the basis for determining the thrust of social policy measures. In many cases, however, it will not be possible to distinguish between consequences which stem solely from the internal market and those which stem from other structural changes, e.g. technological progress, organizational changes etc., so that observation must be extended to cover all forms of change.

Particular attention should therefore be paid to unemployment, since it affects the individual regions of the Community differently, and certain population groups are also particularly affected, by long-term unemployment, youth unemployment or women's unemployment. All these groups will be covered by specific Community action programmes.

This necessary and thorough observation of employment and the situation on the employment market requires appropriate statistical machinery to provide reliable and comparable statistics on employment with detailed breakdowns by sex, activity, economic sector, type of activity, vocational training and qualifications etc., without neglecting the aspects of non-employment in the form of unemployment, underemployment or inactivity. This is provided by the Community labour force survey, which is, however, in need of revision to keep its content in line with the changing conditions of employment and methodologically to ensure maximum comparability and reliability of results for the regions of the Community.

The results of this Community survey form the core of the employment analysis and the basis for the optimum utilization of a whole range of national and regional indicators for Community purposes.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Development of statistics on hours of work and volume of work</i>	83
N	<i>Adaptation of employment statistics to new types and changing structure of employment</i>	83
R	<i>Active and non-active population in the Community</i>	81
R	<i>Community labour force survey</i>	82
C	<i>Employment and unemployment: monitoring of trends and structures</i>	81

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.B.2.b. Social dialogue

The Single Act provides for the development of a dialogue between the two sides of industry, and the European Council in Hanover on 27 and 28 June 1988 asked the Commission to step up this dialogue considerably.

The need for a social dialogue is seen because there is concern that with the implementation of the internal market jobs might be lost in areas which are socially more advanced while new jobs would be created in others which are socially less advanced. It is feared in this connection that social progress will be impeded in the socially most advanced countries.

Against this background, statistics on incomes and expenditures, wages and salaries, and employment costs are extremely important. It is therefore essential for existing surveys on earnings and employment costs to be continued, and we should look closely at whether surveys such as that on wage and salary structures should be resumed. Surveys of this kind are useful for clarifying connections which are not apparent from the examination of average figures alone, e.g. the effects of the composition of the workforce (age, sex and qualifications).

Cooperation between the two sides of industry is also indispensable for promoting training and the necessary adaptation of the workforce to meet the demand for certain qualifications. This requires adequate statistical documentation covering a much wider range than that available today, particularly with regard to education, training, the structure of the employment market, available qualifications, and safety at work.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Social statistics observatory</i>	87
N	<i>The social aspects of the internal market</i>	88
N	<i>Social situation of 'Target groups'</i>	89

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.B.2.c. Economic and social integration of deprived groups and social security

A large number of people in the Community are excluded from economic and social progress. National social and economic policies and Community actions on employment help to prevent the marginalization of certain groups threatened by structural changes. However, the social and economic changes that accompany the completion of the internal market could well increase the already large number of marginalized people. Further Community actions will therefore be launched in order to increase social and economic cohesion in the Community.

A Community action programme for the economic and social integration of deprived groups calls for improved information on the nature of the phenomenon, the characteristics of the social groups most at risk, and the forces behind the new patterns of economic and social exclusion. We must therefore continue the regular collection of comparable data on the most deprived groups in the Community. What is also required is a system for identifying such groups. Account will have to be taken of the fact that many of these people are unable to

take advantage of their rights or have no fixed abode and therefore slip through the statistical net. These data will be supplemented by information on the perception of poverty and differences in living standards. Administrative registers, structural household surveys and household panels will be the main instruments for analysing the forces which cause poverty and for measuring the effectiveness of social security systems.

Social security, however, is relevant not only in the context of poverty but also in the context of mobility. Guaranteeing conditions for genuine freedom of movement of persons and a European area of occupational mobility is an important social dimension of the internal market. Most countries operate social security schemes and similar arrangements which are responsible for paying out cash benefits to various groups of risk, in particular the aged, the sick and disabled, the unemployed and the monoparental families; in addition schemes of public assistance have been introduced in many countries in which the grant made is, in part at least, dependent on the circumstances, which are kept under regular review of the individual or family. Furthermore, many countries organize a range of welfare services which provide benefits in kind. Finally, private occupational pension and sick pay schemes are becoming increasingly important in most countries.

The proliferation of schemes set up under collective agreements in some countries, the lack of accurate information on these schemes and their great complexity are such that Community comparisons are possible only in broad terms. Consideration of this range of problems suggests to improve statistics about the distribution of household incomes and the various redistributions resulting mainly from government policy with respect to taxes, social services benefits and assistance.

The European system of integrated social protection statistics (Esspross) and the Family budget survey provide a framework for social statistics. These instruments contain a variety of data ranging from national data on social protection to consumption expenditure and other information on households. It is intended to improve these instruments through an in-depth harmonization and to complement them with data on income and taxation. Only then it will be possible to monitor the social consequences of provisions related to the completion of the internal market.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Education and vocational training</i>	84
N	<i>Health and safety at work</i>	85
N	<i>Poverty</i>	85
N	<i>Social protection and welfare services</i>	87
N	<i>Cultural statistics</i>	87
R	<i>Family budget surveys</i>	86
C	<i>Population and housing statistics</i>	84
C	<i>Wages, salaries and labour costs</i>	86

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

I.B.3. Money and finance

The monetary union is considered to be an important component contributing to a truly unified European market. Community policies pursued in order to pave the way toward monetary union are focused on the highly interrelated and complementary financial and monetary integration.

The financial integration aims at the creation of a unified financial area in which savings in one part of Europe could be mobilized easily to finance investment projects and other economic activities in other parts. This free movement of capital would lower the costs of finance contributing to growth and employment especially in the context of the internal market. Community policies in financial integration are focused on the step-wise removal of financial barriers most notably of exchange controls. Competition in financial markets will thus increase with Community principles concerning supervision and regulation of the banking sector put in place.

The monetary integration is pursued through joint monetary and exchange rate policies gradually paving the way towards the creation of a common currency. The cornerstone of Community policy is the European monetary system (EMS) with the European currency unit (ecu). Monetary integration, however is reaching beyond the public sector due to the expanding role of the ecu in the private sector.

Statistical information is of importance for the conduct of Community policies in money and finance. An information system has been developed in cooperation with Member States leading towards a harmonized accounting system for the recording of financial and monetary statistics. Financial accounts show the flow of funds between the sectors of an economy (households, enterprises, government, etc.). They are part of the European system of accounts (ESA) and at the core of the system of financial information. It is intended to complement the system currently confined to financial accounts by financial balance-sheets and statistics on the external position of Member States. On top the very progress towards European financial integration has led to a special effort in developing concepts (methods, classifications) in order to cope with both the new European dimension and recent financial innovations.

Short-term information on the functioning of the EMS and the private use of the ecu is provided regularly. This information is supplemented by financial and monetary indicators which are essential in order to chart the developments in financial markets. They are of special use for the monitoring of monetary policies.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Capital market statistics for a European financial area	63
R	EMS and ECU statistics	62
C	Financial and monetary indicators	63
C	External position of Member States	63
C	Financial accounts	62
C	Financial balance sheets	62
DG II	Harmonized database on company accounts (BACH)	101
DG II	Exchange rates	101

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG II=Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

I.B.4. Research and development

The Single Act envisages a coordination of Member States' policies and programmes in research and development (R&D) and obliges the Commission to take the initiative in forstoring such coordination. This implies a reinforcement of statistics in R&D in order to compare and analyse national policies.

Special emphasis in the statistical work is put on four projects: public financing and staffing of R&D and private financing and staffing of R&D with both recording the resources devoted to R&D in the Member States; developments in high-tech will be described by means of indicators thus helping to create a framework for reliable official statistics against which to calibrate the plethora of unofficial data. The need for an evaluation of Community programmes in R&D and of their impact is widely acknowledged. Contributions to statistics designed for this purpose will be developed in cooperation between the concerned national and Commission services.

Statistics in itself is also an area of research. The development of new statistical tools is therefore contained in Community R&D programmes with Eurostat being in charge of:

- the development of statistical expert systems (Doses);
- the usage of remote sensing for agricultural statistics.

Benefits from the Doses projects should accrue not only to statisticians but also to users of statistical information. Remote sensing should improve statistics on land use and thus contribute to the conduct of the Community environmental policy.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Statistics on research and development	75
N	Statistics for the evaluation of Community R&D programmes	75
N	Development of statistical expert systems: Doses	74
C	Public financing and staffing of R&D	64
DG XII	Hermes macroeconomic model (forecasts)	105

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG XII=Directorate-General for Science, Research and Development

I.B.5. Environment

Consideration of the environment is essential to the preservation and improvement of the quality of life. Increasing public awareness of environmental issues, reinforced by the year of the environment in 1987/1988, has been reflected in Community policy initiatives. The Commission is giving additional precision to environmental policy through the priorities laid down in the fourth five-yearly action programme. The Single European Act has introduced a new Title into the EEC Treaty to deal with the environment.

An important need for environmental statistics is induced by the requirement stated by the Single Act that the protection of the environment is integrated in all Community policies. A further specific need arises in the context of the completion of the internal market which will have to occur concurrently with the establishment of strict environmental standards. The implementation of this policy orientation requires statistics of the environment-economic relationships.

The very wide range of environmental issues implies a vast need for data, both detailed, often highly technical, information on specific subjects and more general indicators. Some technical information needs are already met by existing data sources. There are also requirements for official statistics, often at a fine geographical level, on general physical aspects and financial and employment implications. A continuing flow of comparable data is required for identification of problems, for diagnosis and for developing policies, for monitoring their effects and for evaluation.

The present programme includes, for the first time, four specific measures relating to the harmonization of environmental data in the Community:

- the state of the environment and pressures which may be harmful to the environment together with the associated responses will be described in terms of physical data;
- information on financial and employment aspects will be built up in cooperation with other international organizations and the Member States;
- there is a specific project for the collection of existing data relating to municipalities probably involving a Community survey;
- all the data relating to the environment, harmonized, checked and managed by the Statistical Office, will be stored in a specialized database and the statistical information will be accessible to users for analytical purposes. Particular attention is being given to the spatial aspects of environmental information in the development of this database. This work is closely linked to and builds on the Commission's experimental project Corine (1985–1989) on environmental information.

Environmental statistics will also draw on existing and new statistics in specific areas including population statistics, land use, agriculture and forestry statistics, industry and energy statistics and transport. It would be desirable if environmental considerations were taken into account in the future development of the statistical system (e.g. classi-

fications, nomenclatures). Remote sensing is becoming important for the establishment of spatial data – e.g. on land cover and land use, and used for alerts and for monitoring preventive measures etc.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Remote sensing for statistics – application in agriculture</i>	100
N	<i>Economic data on the environment</i>	99
N	<i>Survey on municipalities</i>	100
N	<i>Databbase Corine-Reseau</i>	100
C	<i>Forestry statistics</i>	93
C	<i>Physical data on the environment</i>	98
DG XI	<i>Corine</i>	104

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG XI=Directorate-General for Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety

I.C. International Affairs

I.C.1. External Relations

Community external policy objectives are mostly in the economic realm, and particularly in the trade domain in view of the special Community competence in this area. The basic objectives are:

- advancing the integration of the European Community in the world economy whilst supporting the process of internal integration; and
- developing rules for international economic relations and supporting their universal application.

These basic objectives are pursued within the context of more specific objectives, some of which are global in character, such as:

- increasing world macroeconomic stability through comprehensive economic policy coordination;
- fostering Community and world economic growth through trade expansion and developing countries (LDCs) growth in particular by means of preferential trade;
- conciliating between measures taken in the Community internal interests and their external consequences (e.g. CAP).

Others are multilateral, regional, or bilateral such as:

- strengthening the GATT system through comprehensive negotiations
- encompassing trade in goods and services; and
- considering other aspects linked to trade;
- fostering harmonious relations with various countries or regions on the basis of regular consultations, and
- in the context of special agreements.

Others are sectoral, such as

- advancing the orderly adjustment and restructuring of particular industries (e.g. textile and clothing industry).

These objectives can only be pursued on the basis of comprehensive and detailed information. The relevant Commission services have been supplied with such information. This has greatly facilitated the conduct of these policies, especially by means of information derived from foreign trade statistics. Some objectives, however, have assumed a greater role recently, most notably all those objectives pursued within the context of:

- protecting industries against unfair trade practices or dumping;
- enhancing the opportunities of particular industries (e.g. aircraft);
- supporting stability in primary commodities;
- the Uruguay Round; and
- macroeconomic policy coordination.

Thus both the microeconomic and macroeconomic information services have to take these changes into account.

The microeconomic system of foreign statistics has been improved considerably in recent years as foreign trade statistics have become

- more meaningful through increased harmonization, and
- more reliable, timely, and accessible through improvements in organization and infrastructure.

This system has recently been subject to major changes as the Combined nomenclature was introduced in 1988 and imports will be treated within Taric at an unprecedented level of detail. Thus a potentially very rich source of data is about to become available once the disruptions caused by these major changes have been cleared. A review of the foreign trade statistics production system has been completed with special emphasis put on stabilizing and adapting the system to these changes.

While the recent changes will open up new opportunities they have disrupted not only the production process but they have also affected comparability. Stable time series, however, are much in demand by users of foreign trade statistics. Thus correspondence tables and tools for the calculation of minimum size stable aggregates will be introduced into foreign trade databases.

A uniform application of Community methods in all Member States is at the core of the system and poses a permanent challenge in view of the existing methodological differences between Member States. The Committee on Foreign Trade Statistics will

- guarantee the application of Community methods in so far as they are already harmonized through various regulations, and
- initiate the development of Community methods through propositions for regulations on confidentiality, statistical value, and bonded warehouse statistics.

Comparability of trade statistics would obviously facilitate the conduct of trade negotiations. The chances for international comparability of trade statistics will be greatly enhanced with the imminent world-wide adoption of the Harmonized System. Methodological differences, however, limit the comparison between Community statistics and statistics of partner countries. Thus it is intended to investigate these differences starting with the EFTA countries, the US, and Japan.

Joint expert groups will discuss proposals for agreements on international harmonization.

Another challenge is to establish the link between data and policy variables. This calls for an expansion of the trade statistics system. Only if this challenge can be met will the system be sufficiently comprehensive for trade policy purposes. With the Uruguay Round dominating the trade policy agenda for the next couple of years Eurostat will respond to the extra information needs with the Starcom project. Starcom is intended to link trade statistics in different nomenclatures in the initial phase with tariff information and later on with other relevant economic information. With Starcom it will be possible:

- to conduct appropriate economic analyses,
- to exploit data in a flexible manner, and
- to prepare various reports.

all of which is needed in the course of trade negotiations. In view of both importance and urgency of trade negotiations the Starcom project will be pursued with a high priority.

The introduction of Taric has also major implications for trade statistics used to design and monitor the Community's system of Generalized preferences (GSP). In the past the quality of GSP statistics has been adversely affected by methodological differences which were almost impossible to overcome. While the current system will be maintained in order to assure the necessary on-going support for the Commission services concerned, the time has come to take a fresh look at GSP statistics in the context of Taric. It is intended to link a revised GSP system with the Starcom system under development in order to provide a comprehensive tool for the conduct of trade policies encompassing multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations.

The microeconomic information system has, until now, focused on trade in goods. In the long run the system will have to be complemented by information on trade in services in view of its increasing importance. The response to this challenge will be the development of an independent survey of services trade based on transactions. Methodological work will start soon in cooperation with OECD and other interested bodies. Results, however, will not be available for some time in view of the novelty of the undertaking.

Considerable efforts will be made in the development of extra and intra-Community services trade statistics (see chapter I). While the issues to be addressed by these statistics might differ they will be quite close in terms of methodology although they might differ in terms of coverage. Thus their development should be seen as one statistical undertaking.

Macroeconomic statistics on international transactions are mainly confined to balance of payments (BOP) statistics. These statistics are updated quarterly and have been refined by a partner break-down for the main current operations. Special emphasis will be put on improving BOP statistics by the use of estimates in order to reconcile methodological differences. BOP statistics will also be consolidated

with the incorporation of the Community institutions based on budgetary data. Further improvements will be made along the lines set out by the Balance of payments manual which is about to be revised by the International Monetary Fund. The classification of current operations (goods, services, revenues, and transfers) will be refined with special emphasis on services.

In the short term a special effort will have to be made in order to improve statistics on services trade. Services are high on the Uruguay Round agenda, thus available sources have to be exploited as quickly as possible in support of the on-going GATT negotiations. The latest study on 'The European Community's external trade in services' fell short of what was needed (e.g. Community aggregates are missing). A new study will have to go further. Member States will, however, have to provide the basic information which will then be used for estimations and corrections.

It is intended to supply data on international capital movements with special emphasis on direct investment by branch and partner country. Such statistics have been foreseen for quite a while (Art. 72 of the EEC Treaty) but they were never completed as some Member States supplied insufficient information. A new effort is thus under way.

Some new tools for macroeconomic analysis have become available (external trade indices, world trade matrix) and others have been improved (BOP). While the improvement of these tools continues (through deseasonalization facilities) more effort will go into the promotion of adequate usage of these statistical tools through analyses and studies supplemented wherever necessary by forecasts. Special emphasis has been and continues to be on the analysis of Community-ACP trade, but other regions have and will also be dealt with (Asean, Latin America, Eastern Europe). New sectoral studies have been launched covering Community trade with LDCs in agriculture and high-tech trade.

It is ultimately intended to integrate the existing tools into a macroeconomic system of statistics about international transactions thus going beyond trade. Such a macroeconomic system should be able to provide adequate information for the conduct of:

- international economic policy coordination, and
- management of international financial relations,

which are areas with growing importance. Support will also be given to specific projects of other Commission services, most notably to the Commission's 'Report on international trade of the European Community'.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Tarif and trade statistics (Starcom)	67
N	World trade matrix	67
N	Balance of payments of the European institutions	68
N	Survey on trade in services	68
N	International trade in services	65
R	Balance of payments methodology	68
R	Balance of payments statistics	68
R	Seasonal adjustment	67
C	Classification of goods for external trade	65
C	Classification of countries	65
C	Management and development of a statistical methodology for foreign trade statistics	65
C	Production of foreign trade statistics	66
C	Production of GSP statistics	67
C	Processing of external trade statistics classifications	66
C	Comext database	66
C	External trade indices	67
C	International capital movements	68
DG VIII	DAC questionnaire – disbursements and commitments of official and private flows	104

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG VIII=Directorate-General for Development

I.C.2. Technical cooperation

The Community has concluded a large number of agreements with non-Community countries, in particular with developing countries. The following are of particular importance:

- the Lomé Convention, governing Community cooperation with 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and
- the agreements with the Mediterranean countries.

However, more recently closer relations have also been developed with Latin American and Asian countries. All these Agreements essentially cover:

- the promotion and development of trade,
- support for rural development and increasing food security,
- the development of human resources,
- support in combating social problems, and
- regional cooperation and support for regional integration.

Statistical data play an important part in the implementation of foreign policy and development policy in the context of these Agreements. Certain statistical data on these countries are therefore compiled in close collaboration with the countries concerned. In addition statistics *per se* have become a subject in recent years of technical cooperation, both in order to increase the quality of the statistical data required for assessing development policy measures, and to improve the statistical infrastructure of developing countries.

Technical cooperation in the field of statistics concentrates on the following:

- the training of statisticians in centres which receive financial support from the Community,
- harmonization of the external trade statistics of developing countries and their regional organizations, in order to facilitate rapid access to statistics and the elimination of any discrepancies,
- improvement of technical resources for the compilation and processing of external trade statistics, particularly using micro-computers,
- improvement of the statistical data needed for the formulation and management of food policy (crop estimates, early warning systems, market data, etc.),
- compilation and analysis of statistical data for assessing the social consequences of restructuring measures (surveys of specific population groups on particular subjects, household budget and consumption surveys, etc.).

The main focus of technical cooperation in statistics is naturally on the ACP countries, but other countries, such as China and Yugoslavia, are becoming increasingly involved. The statistical aspects of technical cooperation are determined in the light of Community development policy.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Cooperation: Statistics for social policies	70
N	Cooperation: Data-processing in the field of public finance in Africa	70
N	Cooperation: Development of a system for agricultural surveys in Tunisia	69
C	Cooperation: National accounts	59
C	Cooperation: Training of statisticians	69
C	Cooperation: External trade statistics	69
C	Cooperation: Statistics for food and rural development policies	69
C	Cooperation: Statistical projects in other fields	69
C	Cooperation: Industrial statistics	76

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

II. Statistical support for other Community policies

II.A. Agriculture

The main Community policy related to agriculture is the common agricultural policy and its reform. There are important agricultural components also in trade policies, in environmental issues, in regional and social policies, in the development of the internal market, in Third World aid, and in developments related to the rural world. These policy areas have very considerable data needs. In large part these needs are already covered by existing agricultural statistics or by agricultural components of more general statistical systems e.g. on foreign trade. In some areas new problems and new policies require developments. Special efforts will be needed to help the agricultural statistics system in some Member States to meet the needs of the Community.

Adapting the internal market to internal and external constraints necessitates measures aimed at both controlling production and restoring balance to agricultural markets. These include monitoring domestic supplies, improving the operation of world agricultural markets in the short and medium term, and budgetary restrictions on direct production aids. This means that regular information is necessary on crop and animal production, together with supply balance sheet statistics giving a picture of markets by product or group of products. This is provided by the important regular surveys on livestock, by the animal feed statistics, by the crop production and balance sheets and by the animal products, production and balance sheet statistics.

The use of agricultural stabilizers and the application of indicators on the basis of recent production trends require reliable, accurate, permanent and rapid information on harvests, i.e. an agricultural early-warning system linked to harvest forecasts, and the possible use of remote sensing to supplement intra-Community forecasting information and perhaps even, in due course, harvest (or production deficit) forecasts for the major crop-growing areas of the world. Here, Eurostat is further developing a harvest forecast and early warning system. The production statistics of certain crops will be put on an improved and more formal footing to better meet the needs of the Community 'stabilizer' policy. The potential of remote sensing for agricultural land use statistics is being explored (with spin-off to other areas e.g. environmental statistics).

As far as measures aimed at guaranteeing farmers' income are concerned, we need to know more about the incomes of agricultural households and the increasing role of non-agricultural activities. This involves the continuation and development of statistics on agricultural prices and of the national economic accounts for agriculture. New statistics will be developed to cover the non farming income of agricultural households. Part of the strategy to reform the CAP (adapting

measures to the special situation in certain regions) reflects the aim of economic and social cohesion, (given that the socio-economic fabric of many Community regions depends on agricultural activity). An attempt will be made to give a regional breakdown of the economic accounts for agriculture. The statistics of volume of work in agriculture will be made more detailed, deepening also the regional aspect. The further development of a consistent set of price and quantity data feeding an econometric model will enable different types of analysis to be undertaken, including the short-term simulation of policy measures in respect of income, and to check the consistency of Community agricultural statistics.

Socio-structural policies designed to help agriculture adapt to a new market situation while taking account of consequences which are not directly agricultural require regional data at least on population (labour movements, population density), on land use (crops and grass, set-aside, woodland, other) and the structure of holdings. Here key information will continue to be provided by important Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings where a new legal base has been established including the Eurofarm database project, together with the vineyard survey and the survey on orchard fruit. The existing statistics on forestry will be continued and the implications for them of the Community forestry action programme examined. The two year survey on the earnings of agricultural workers will be reviewed and a statistical instrument proposed to provide more information on their social situation.

The Council regulations (or proposals for regulations) on incentives to give up farming and on aid for farm incomes refer expressly to regional statistical indicators: thus the proportion of Community funding will be a function of regional GDP and the number of jobs in agriculture, while the maximum amount of aid will be calculated on the basis of the regional agricultural accounts.

The more general considerations relating to the future of the rural world raise issues on tourism, environment, use of space, transport infrastructure and many others creating a complex of data needs and flows of which the agricultural data are an important part. Attention will be given to the interrelationship of the agricultural statistical system and other data used in conjunction with it. Agriculture interfaces with industry and trade both at the output end of agriculture – agro-industry and agricultural exports and at the input end – fertilizers and machinery. Trade in agricultural products has to be looked at in a number of contexts such as trade negotiations, domestic supply, agricultural profitability, Third World aid, and Community resources. Account has also to be taken of data collection systems maintained in a more administrative context e.g. by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture with such important information activities as the Farm accounts data network, the Olive and vineyard registers and work on remote sensing. It is intended that an assessment of the Community's agricultural statistics system as a whole be undertaken at the initiative of Eurostat during the period covered by the programme.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Total income of agricultural households	95
N	Agro-food industry statistics	97
N	Harvest forecasts and agricultural early warning system	94
N	Remote sensing – applications in agriculture	100
R	Eurofarm	92
C	Assistance with plans for the restructuring of the system of agricultural statistics in MS	97
C	Forestry statistics	93
C	Surveys of vineyards	93
C	Community survey on the structure of agricultural holdings	92
C	Fruit tree surveys	93
C	Agricultural price statistics	96
C	Sectoral Income Index	95
C	SPEL model	96
C	Economic accounts for agriculture	95
C	Agricultural land use	93
C	Livestock surveys	94
C	Animal feed	94
C	Crop products, production and balance sheets	94
C	Animal products, production and balance sheets	94
C	Regional agricultural statistics	90
DG VI	Market prices of farm products	102
DG VI	Farm accountancy data network (FADN)	102
DG VI	External trade in certain agricultural products	102
DG VI	Vineyard register	102
DG VI	Register of olive cultivation	103

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG VI=Directorate-General for Agriculture

II.B. Fisheries

The Community fishery policy aims include the long term viability of the fishing sector, both as regards the fishing fleet and fish stocks and continuity of appropriate supplies to consumers. This involves:

- negotiation with non-member countries in international fishing organizations or bilaterally,
- regulation of the Community fishing fleet (tonnage and gear),
- access rules to fishing areas in Community waters for Community and non-Community vessels in order to preserve fish stocks,
- management of markets in order to guarantee supply in the interests of both fishermen and consumers.

The data requirements for these policy purposes are substantial. Fortunately as far as catches of different kinds of fish taken in different fishery regions are concerned, they largely coincide with existing obligations of Member States to provide figures to international authorities. A key aspect of Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics is to maximize the re-use of existing data for different purposes. For the common management of markets the data used relate to the quantities of fish landed in all Community ports, broken down according to the origin and ownership of the vessels. As far as statistics on the fishing fleet are concerned, Eurostat plans to obtain annual

figures by a special extraction from a Community administrative register of fishing vessels. This is currently being developed by the Directorate-General for Fisheries. Member States will be released from their commitments to the statistical register once the administrative register is operational.

Activity/project		Page
Type	Title	
C	Statistics on catches of fish	98
C	Statistics on landing of fishery products	98
C	Fishing fleet statistics	98

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

II.C. Industry

The European Community conducts a wide range of policies of relevance for the European industry:

- general framework policies such as the macroeconomic cooperative growth strategy with its employment aspect, the internal market, competition, and the social dialogue;
- policies with an important industrial component such as commercial policy, regional policy, or environment policy;
- specific industrial policies in areas such as public investment, public aid to private investment, price control, public procurement, research and development, high-tech and telecommunications, sector crisis management, or small and medium-sized enterprises (SME); and
- the steel policy which has a particularly long tradition as a Community policy.

The pursued objectives are manifold and interrelated: Some objectives are general in nature, such as the increase in European competitiveness, or the maintenance of a healthy mix and the achievement of a more even spread of industrial activities in Europe. Some objectives are highly special, such as the advancement an orderly adjustment and restructuring in a particular industry, most notably in the steel industry, or the support for the take-off of a particular industry.

Some objectives are related to the supply side such as the support for SMEs or the cut in shipyard capacity, others to the demand side, such as open government procurement, some are related to economic aspects with others related to social aspects.

The conduct of these policies requires statistical information collected from industrial enterprises. The current general system in industrial statistics rests on three pillars:

- short term trends,
- production statistics, and
- statistics on the structure and activity of industrial enterprises.

The special steel statistics system, however, goes beyond the general system with details about production, trade, and consumption, market trends, and the link of the steel industry to other industries.

The general industrial statistics system will have to change significantly because of several important changes in the political and economic environment to which these statistics are related:

- the creation of the internal market;
- the rise of industrial policy with a strong emphasis on international competitiveness;
- the increase in the mobility of resources and thus the globalization of industrial production;
- the erosion of the border between industry and services.

A successful restructuring of the system is of vital importance in order to provide the statistics required not only by policy makers but also by the social and business community. The main emphasis will be put on:

- a more comprehensive, flexible and rapid service;
- overcoming the limits set by confidentiality;
- reducing the burden for enterprises.

For this purpose several projects which have the potential to reshape the entire system have been put in hand most prominently:

- work on registers;
- exploitation of administrative and professional sources.

These projects will serve as the basis for the development of new statistical tools which will provide information on enterprises necessary for the efficient functioning of the internal market. (see I.A.) They are supplemented by other projects which address areas of specific importance:

- High-technology (see I.B.4.);
- Small and medium-sized enterprises.

All these new projects have a strong bearing on services statistics as well thus leading to a more comprehensive system of enterprise statistics.

Finally the conduct of industrial policies will be enhanced with the provision of comparable statistics for the US and Japan, the major competitors of the Community. This statistical service will be extended to certain newly industrialized countries.

The quota system for the steel industry has been discontinued. Thus the system of steel statistics which used to depend on this system must be adapted in order to allow a statistical surveillance of the evolution in the steel market and in steel industry employment.

The raw material supply and recycling policy is an integral part of the industrial policy which has increased in importance with the emergence of environmental issues. Commodity raw material balances provide the statistical instrument to measure the degree of Community self-sufficiency. These balances are supplemented by statistics about the recycling of certain metals.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Adapting the industrial statistical system to the needs of the internal market</i>	73
N	<i>Agro-food industry statistics</i>	97
R	<i>Statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises</i>	75
R	<i>Raw material balance sheets</i>	76
C	<i>Current industrial statistics: collection, management, analysis, dissemination of data</i>	74
C	<i>Steel statistics</i>	76
C	<i>'Steel' input-output table</i>	77
C	<i>Steel input by branch</i>	77
C	<i>Raw material input of the steel industry</i>	76
C	<i>Market statistics</i>	77

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

II.D. Energy

The energy policy objectives for the Community as set by the Council for 1995 are aiming at a restructuring of the energy sector in order to:

- improve energy efficiency;
- increase security of supply.

These objectives are supplemented by a range of detailed quantitative objectives, such as reducing the share of oil to only 40% of energy supply, restricting electricity production from oil or gas to 15%, and complemented by qualitative objectives: pollution control, energy price stability, or mutually beneficial international relations in energy.

In view of these objectives the system of energy statistics has to capture the essence of the energy sector in terms of values, volumes, tariffs and prices, as well as in terms of sources and destinations, production and consumption, etc for various types of energy. For this purpose the following information is provided:

- statistics for coal, hydrocarbons, electricity, gas, and nuclear energy to be supplemented by statistics on renewable energy;
- statistics which summarize the evolution of the energy sector as a whole in energy balance-sheets and in input-output tables;
- surveys on household and industrial energy consumption;
- statistics on investment in the energy sector.

Thus currently available statistics help to improve market transparency (prices and tariffs) and monitor resources adequately.

Suitable indicators are developed to monitor the Community energy policy. They are supplemented by statistical information for an integrated macro- and microeconomic analysis of the energy sector as all the different energy sources have to be analysed jointly within a common framework.

The energy statistics system draws on a variety of information sources and is now well established. The time since the first oil shock has been used to set up an adequate system which can easily be adjusted in order to incorporate new energy policy concerns (e.g.

environment). In view of the fact that energy policy issues have shifted somewhat towards the back stage the time has come for a consolidation of the system. This has led to the development of the Sirene database which brings together all information related to energy.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Energy related investment and indicators</i>	72
N	<i>Survey on energy consumption in households</i>	72
N	<i>Survey on industrial energy consumption</i>	72
R	<i>Energy information system (EIS)</i>	73
C	<i>Statistics on energy production</i>	71
C	<i>Global energy balance sheets</i>	71
C	<i>Energy input-output tables</i>	71
C	<i>Energy prices</i>	72
DG XVII	<i>Imports of crude oil</i>	105
DG XVII	<i>Emergency oil stocks</i>	105
DG XVII	<i>Solid fuels in the Community</i>	105
DG XVII	<i>Investment in the electricity sector</i>	105
DG XVII	<i>Electricity database</i>	106

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

In charge of the activity:

DG XVII=Directorate-General for Energy

II.E. Services

II.E.1. Services in general

The European Community conducts also a wide range of policies of relevance for the European service industries:

- general framework policies such as the macroeconomic growth strategy with its employment aspect, competition policy and the social dialogue;
- policies with an important services' component such as commercial policy, policy towards small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), training and the provision of infrastructure;
- specific policies directed towards services particularly in the fields of financial services, telecommunications, transport, tourism and professional services;
- public procurement.

With regard to services, policies are intended to provide a framework within which enterprises can operate efficiently. This framework requires general policies to enhance the international competitiveness of European suppliers of services, or to maintain a minimum level of provision throughout the Community. It also requires highly specific policies, notably those linked with the realization of the internal market for services, for which regulatory barriers represent the major impediment. Since most SMEs are active in the services sector, policies to promote them also have a disproportionate effect on services as do services policies on SMEs. Public procurement for services affects not only providers of services, but also those for

goods through technical specifications provided. In view of the prevalence of part-time and irregular working patterns, social policy is of particular importance for services.

The conduct of these policies requires statistical information collected from enterprises. A common system will, therefore, need to be created to supply this information based on statistics on the structure and activity of services enterprises.

For this purpose, work has been set in hand on defining the overall shape and direction of the future system for gathering statistics on services. Adjustments and additions will be necessary to take into account the specific aspects of the different major services industries. Subsequently, it will be necessary to set in hand work on registers and the exploitation of administrative and professional sources prior to undertaking surveys. At this stage, it is intended to restrict the scope of data coverage to market services.

These projects will serve as a basis for the development of new statistical tools which provide information on enterprises necessary for the efficient functioning of the internal market. This information is of particular importance in view of the fact that much of the existing information collected by national regulatory authorities will no longer be available or replaced by corresponding Community data after the completion of the internal market.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	General framework of services	78
N	Services database	78
N	Distributive trade	79
N	Horeca (hotels, catering) and travel agencies	79
N	Transport activities	79
R	Financial services (including insurance)	79
N	Communications, data-processing services	79
N	Business services	80

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

II.E.2. Transport

Transport policy has received a new impetus in the context of the internal market. Market transparency in a market as large as the European transport market is of particular importance. Furthermore, new Community actions have been launched in air and maritime transport. The liberalization of international passenger transport is pursued. Finally new supervision and negotiation tasks have been assigned to the Commission.

These initiatives have greatly increased the demand for information about enterprises which supply transport services. While information about transport services will be enhanced also within the context of information about services in general a special effort will be made in transport statistics. Existing Council directives on transport by road, inland waterways and railway will be extended and supplemented by directives about air and maritime transport.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Transport activities	79
R	Transport methodology	80
C	Transport – production and development	80
DG VII	Transport market observation system	103
DG VII	Road haulage with certain non-member States	103
DG VII	Community quota statistics	103
DG VII	Activities of carriers in cargo liner traffic	104
DG VII	Transport infrastructure costing	104
DG VII	Railway economic situation	104

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity
 In charge of the activity:
 DG VII=Directorate-General for Transport

II.E.3. Tourism

Community actions in the domain of tourism have recently been stepped up. The main objectives pursued in the context of a Community policy on tourism are:

- to promote tourism throughout the Community;
- to improve the staggering of tourism both in time and space;
- to improve the operation of financial services relevant for tourism;
- to improve both the information and protection of tourists;
- to enhance the understanding of the various professions in tourism.

The conduct of the Community policy on tourism requires a wide range of information cutting across several statistical domains. While information about tourism services (travel agents, hotels, restaurants, etc) will be improved also within the larger framework of information about the services sector a special effort will be made in tourism statistics. A Council directive concerned with a wide range of topics (accommodation capacity, prices, arrival of foreign tourists, etc.) and a Council directive concerned with the organization of a survey on vacations of Community residents are both in preparation.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	Tourism statistics	81
N	Horeca (Hotels, catering) and travel agencies	79
N	Transport methodology	80
N	Survey on trade in services	68
N	International trade in services	68
R	Balance of payments methodology	68

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

II.F. Information

All the Community institutions are well aware that information will play a major role in the European society now being created. Information has to be produced and circulated, its existence has to be made known, and it must be accessible to all who might need it: government departments, companies and the man in the street.

The response to this development must be geared to:

- all strata of society: information about the Community is needed not only by large government departments and major companies, but must also get through to small and medium-sized firms and the citizens of Europe as a whole, for whom it provides tangible evidence of Europe as a living reality and of European identity;
- the information market: information is a service with a commercial element, and this market needs to be organized within the framework of a Europe without frontiers;
- the technical side: modern technology provides the tools to produce, manage, store and circulate information; considerable efforts are being devoted to the research and organizational programmes covering informatics and telematics technology (see Chapter III B).

Statistics are a type of information and are part of the whole range of information covered by information policies.

A policy for dissemination of statistics must be based on two main considerations:

- the 'user' dimension: statistical information must be disseminated within the Commission and the European institutions, but it must also be channelled back to those contributing to its production (national administrations, companies, etc.) and passed on to ordinary European citizens. The nature of demand varies a lot: from very detailed statistics about a specific topic, to a general digest covering the whole field of statistical activity;
- the 'purpose of use' dimension, which involves the creation of traditional 'products' (publications, statistical reports) and electronic 'products' (databases, magnetic and optical media), depending on the use to be made of the information – some users simply wanting to consult information in a publication or database, whereas others wish to download varying quantities of information to their own data-processing equipment.

Creation of a complete range of coherent products should make it possible to respond to the growing demand for statistical information from political, social and economic circles, with Eurostat's dissemination policy contributing to demonstrating the existence, identity, vitality and economic dimension of the Community in all fields.

Information, and statistical information in particular, is not a product to be had free of charge. Its compilation and all the services connected with its processing have to be paid for. Some of the cost is borne by the providers of primary information and by the public authority processing it. Therefore, any dissemination policy must take into account the problems of distribution networks and what rates to

charge, dovetail with the European market for information and information services, and call, where appropriate, on the services of private bodies in this market.

For statistical information to be utilized, its existence, possible uses and access channels need to be made known. This is the aim of PR and publicity campaigns to promote Eurostat's image and draw attention to the quality of its products. This communication policy will have to make full use of all multipliers (private and institutional), thus ensuring that the various types of user are reached.

What is more, statistical information needs to be enhanced. The information provided by statistics is tenfold if subjected to analysis, whether by using statistical techniques or by bringing out the statistical and economic significance of the recorded data. General digests will contribute to this enhancement of European statistics by comparing findings from the various statistical fields. This will, among other things, help quantify Europe as a living reality and make Europeans more aware of what they have in common.

However, a dissemination policy of the type described above requires a major management effort. The management work involved will be rationalized by introducing a new database architecture keeping public databases separate from production bases, while public databases will, for their part, be divided into mass-dissemination and reference bases depending upon the user and the type of use made of the data. Statistical information does not consist solely of numerical data, but also of 'metadata', i.e. documentation on what the data signify and how they are compiled. The documentation on Eurostat data will have to be expanded and revised to match the new structure of Eurostat bases, which is itself integrated with that of the Commission under the Insis programme.

Activity/Project		
type	title	page
N	<i>Installation of new dissemination products</i>	111
N	<i>Wide dissemination databases ('Eurocron')</i>	111
N	<i>Access to statistical databases (ABIS)</i>	111
R	<i>Documentation of public databases</i>	110
C	<i>Dissemination policy for statistical data</i>	109
C	<i>Public relations</i>	109
C	<i>General digest</i>	110
C	<i>Data dissemination management</i>	110
C	<i>Brussels Data Shop</i>	111

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

III. Functioning of the Community

III.A. Own resources

The Community's budget is financed through 'own resources', which are made up of various contributions which the Community collects from the Member States or has collected by the Member States. Until 1987 these contributions were agricultural levies, customs duties and a percentage of the amount yielded by value added tax. 1988 has seen the introduction of a fourth contribution, which is payable to the Community on the basis of gross national product at market prices (GNP) while making allowance for the amount of the other contributions. GNP has thus become a central feature of the new Community system of contributions.

When the Community budget is drawn up, statistical information is used to forecast and check the contributions of the Member States. Data from the System of integrated economic accounts are used to estimate and verify what the Member States contribute on the basis of VAT revenue. Revenue from customs duties is estimated on the basis of import statistics. As the statistical machinery for trade negotiations is improved, it will be possible to improve estimates of revenue from customs duties.

However, the introduction of GNP as a major reference figure for calculating own resources means that a lasting improvement of statistical information is needed. The Council has therefore adopted a directive on GNP which provides for greater comparability of GNP statistics. The Commission will take account of these demands through work ensuring that the ESA rules on preparing GNP estimates and its main aggregates are properly applied by the Member States. The statistical systems of some Member States will have to be improved in the light of these demands. The Community will give the National Statistical Institutes concerned every assistance in completing this task.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Own resources: verification and checks of GNP estimates</i>	55
N	<i>Own resources: assessment of resources accruing from customs duties</i>	67
C	<i>Own resources: control of VAT</i>	63

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

III.B. Infrastructure

III.B.1 Informatics

Information-processing and telecommunications technologies are of cardinal importance to the Community's research and development,

industrial and information policies. Being able to make optimum use of techniques for processing, storing and transporting information will be a major factor for progress, if not growth, in the next few decades. Since a development strategy in these fields is only possible in a market of European dimensions, it is clear that Community action is called for.

Basically numerical in nature, statistics have always been, and must continue to be, a pioneering force in the use of leading-edge data-processing techniques. The first computers were 'invented' to process population censuses!

The Commission considers the creation, promotion and utilization of norms and standards at European level to be vital for the success of its policies in the data-processing field. Eurostat plays its part by helping to draw up standards in the field of remote data transmission and by integrating its own informatics infrastructure with that chosen by the Commission following negotiations with European producers of hardware and software.

If limited to Eurostat's internal workings alone, such measures would have only a restricted impact. Eurostat wishes to extend these measures to the European level by building up its relations with the Member States – especially in the field of remote transmission of statistics – within the framework of more general programmes involving relations between the Commission and national departments (Caddia).

Eurostat's projects cover remote transmission proper (Statel), the infrastructure for gathering information passed on by the Member States at Eurostat (Stadium) and the redissemination of this information following processing and analysis (Strings). Development of these tools will require much closer relations with the Member States and international organizations, especially at the technical level.

As the programme unfolds, data-processing applications for statistical purposes will not be limited to those around today. Interesting possibilities are already emerging in the electronic exchange of trade data (see the Commission's Tedis programme), use of expert systems (see the Doses project), remote sensing, development of statistical analysis techniques, etc. Eurostat remains on the lookout for such developments so as to benefit from them once they are operational.

Finally, optimizing the use made of informatics (hardware and software) will help boost Eurostat's performance in its tasks of collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information.

The new general services and the advances in hardware/software are not the sole preserve of data-processing experts, but must be used in all sectors to facilitate or rationalize the work of statisticians. Spin-off from technical advances in sector applications is essential to maintain this high level of performance.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Collection infrastructure: Stadium</i>	107
N	<i>Dissemination infrastructure: Strings</i>	108
N	<i>Exploring new computer methods for statistics</i>	108
C	<i>Development of general computer services</i>	107
C	<i>Relations with Member States and international organizations in informatics</i>	109
C	<i>Assistance and development of sectoral computer applications</i>	109
C	<i>Operation of data-processing infrastructure</i>	109
C	<i>Public database administration</i>	110
C	<i>Data collection management</i>	110
C	<i>Development of statistical analyses systems</i>	70
C	<i>Data analysis assistance</i>	71

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

III.B.2 Support of and cooperation between the Statistical Offices of the Member States

The implementation of the statistical programme is an important step towards a Community statistical information system. It places particularly heavy demands on the statistical services of the smaller and less developed Member States and special efforts will therefore be made to provide them with technical and financial support. In the past, support has centred on agricultural statistics. This support will continue, but must be extended to other areas in order that all national statistical offices may meet the challenges of the 1990s.

Greater cooperation between national statistical offices is of particular importance in this context. A true Community statistical information system can come to fruition only if integration of national systems is given impetus through greater cooperation. Eurostat has a vital role to play here as coordinator.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Assistance to the systems of enterprise statistics of certain Member States</i>	75
C	<i>Assistance with plans for the restructuring of the system of agricultural statistics in the MS</i>	97

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

III.C. Staff management

According to Articles 64 and 65 of the Staff regulations and to the Council Decisions in 1981 and 1987 it is necessary to draw up a system of indicators for the differences in the cost of living at various locations where Community staff are working. This work entails also a regular updating of the correction coefficients and the establishment of an annual report in which the Commission proposes the adaptation of salaries for Community staff in Brussels and all other locations. The

system is regularly revised and will be extended to cover Community staff working outside the Community.

Activity/project		
Type	Title	Page
N	<i>Price surveys and consumption pattern surveys of staff in non-Community countries</i>	61
C	<i>Price surveys and consumption pattern surveys of staff in the Member States</i>	61

N=new project, R=restructured project, C=current activity

Inventory of main statistical work in the Community

Statistics under Eurostat's responsibility

Part II of this document assigns the work envisaged in the Programme to the various Community services in charge. These are on the one hand Eurostat services and on the other hand services in other Directorates-General. This part gives a description not only of the work which will be undertaken in view of Community policies as presented in part I of the Programme but also of the work which is done by the statistical services of the Community for the public at large.

Part II is subdivided as follows:

1. Statistics under Eurostat responsibility
 - general economic statistics, national accounts and prices;
 - international trade statistics, third countries and ACP countries;
 - enterprise statistics;
 - social and regional statistics;
 - agricultural, fisheries and environmental statistics;
2. Statistics under the responsibility of other Commission services;
3. Informatics and dissemination.

General economic statistics, national accounts, prices

Own resources: verifications and checks of GNP estimates

Work to be developed under the 'Verifications and checks' project is implied by the decision of the European Council to fix the own resources as a function of GNP.

First of all, the statistical sources will have to be critically assessed with particular reference to their reliability as a means of estimating GNP. At the same time, an effort will be made to determine the

margins of error associated with inadequate coverage (e.g. the unrecorded or 'hidden' economy). In the light of these analyses, together with those which the Member States themselves regard as valuable, a model will be devised for verification of the process by which GNP is established. Since this involves assessment of the reliability of GNP – and in more general terms the national accounts drawn up by the national statistical institutes – it is essential, if this project is to succeed, that experts from the Member States should be actively involved.

The fact that GNP is to be used for administrative purposes explains the adoption of a Community directive to ensure that the ESA rules for calculating GNP and the main aggregates are correctly applied. This directive also determines the resources (financial and other) needed to implement the project, especially to improve the statistical systems of certain countries.

Classifications of activities and products

The objective of the project is to draw up an integrated, harmonized system of classifications of activities and products at world, Community and national levels, in an attempt to improve the comparability of data and make it possible to use every possible source of information.

The timetable for the project, which will be developed together with the United Nations, envisages the adoption of both the SITC Rev.3 (classification of activities) and the CPC (classification of products linked to the SITC).

This implies that the Community has to adopt the revised NACE and the CPC-COM and that Member States have to introduce new classifications identical to or totally compatible with the European classifications.

A regulation will be needed to introduce the NACE as a compulsory basis for national classifications for the collection and transmission of data.

ESA economic aggregates and quarterly accounts

Over the next few years, Eurostat will continue to collect from the national statistical institutes information on national accounts aggregates, and try to improve their comparability. This objective also ties in with the decision of the Heads of State or Government to institute a fourth resource based on GNP for each Member State's contribution to the Community budget.

Quarterly accounts are at an in-between stage. In their current form, they provide only data on flows of goods and services. In order to make them more useful for the analysis of short-term economic trends, data on revenue and financial flows will have to be incorporated and the accounts will have to be produced more quickly. The fact that quarterly accounts are not incorporated into the ESA poses difficult problems (the available data are not homogeneous, the techniques used for seasonal adjustment vary, etc). These difficulties

will be analysed in 1989 and a programme to harmonize quarterly accounts will be proposed in 1990.

ESA sectoral accounts

Detailed accounts by institutional sector as a basis for the study and analysis of the behaviour of the various economic agents are a matter of priority.

Eurostat will continue to collect – from the national statistical institutes and, in some cases, other bodies – national accounts data relating to the institutional sectors: households, enterprises, general government. In the medium term, the information obtained should be considerably improved by the more widespread use of data processing and by ensuring that the methodological rules of the ESA and the deadlines imposed are complied with.

ESA branch accounts and input-output tables

As a basis for the study of the structures of production and how the factors of production are economically interdependent as regards productivity, the ESA breaks the economy down into branches which group together 'units of homogeneous production' exercising an activity geared solely to one product or group of products. A more detailed breakdown of trade between branches leads to input-output tables.

Over the next few years, Eurostat will continue to collect (on an annual basis) data for branch accounts and for input-output tables (5-yearly) and to check internal consistency and adherence to the methodology defined in the ESA.

Economic accounts of the Community institutions

In view of the economic and financial importance of the European institutions, it is essential to treat them as countries of a particular kind and provide a coherent, quantitative description of their economies. Economic and financial accounts have therefore to be drawn up for the Community Institutions in the same way as they are at national level. This current project should enable the Member States to provide better coverage in their own national accounts of the nature (in economic terms) and scale of all transactions between the institutions and the various Community countries.

This project also ties in with work on the balance of payments of the European institutions, and thus a common classification can be drawn up for the budgetary provisions of these institutions and for balance of payments and national accounts transactions.

Community system of accounts (ESA) – Methodology

The aim of this project is to work in close cooperation with international organizations (OECD, UN, IMF, World Bank) to make corrections and improvements to the systems of national accounts in current use, in order to take into account changes in economic structures, progress in methodology and the new, and in some cases

different, data which are needed today. The changes and extensions cover basically the introduction of extended consumption, a new method of dealing with financial leasing and closer, easier links with balance of payments statistics and statistics on public finance. The extension involves the development of balance sheets (stocks) which have then to be linked with the ESA accounts (flows).

Work on drafting the new ESA will begin in 1989. Discussions on the revised version of the ESA will be held in 1990 and 1991 and the final version will be prepared in the various Community languages in 1992.

Coordination of statistics and accounts – general coordination

The 'Coordination of statistics and accounts' imposes a new dimension, one which can guarantee that statistics and accounts will be coherent from the outset. This coordination must not be purely mechanical, superimposed on projects which are already under way: it must be an essential feature of them.

In the first instance, the current situation must be analysed in depth so that proposals can be put forward to ensure coherence between the various macroeconomic statistics, between macro- and micro-economic statistics and between microeconomic statistics. The coordination of statistics and accounts will have to become one of the main elements in the drawing up of new projects. This coordination aims both to rationalize statistical work in all fields (statistical units, definition of variables, classifications, base years, aggregation formulae etc.) and to improve use of the information when it is presented in a coherent way.

Coordination of macroeconomic statistical systems

Work on harmonizing methodologies aims to align various macroeconomic statistical systems: national accounts, balance of payments, social protection statistics, agricultural accounts, input-output tables for energy, steel, agriculture etc.

Coordination of statistics and accounts: micro-macro

This methodological harmonization project aims to improve the integration of micro- and macroeconomic statistics. Bringing these two systems closer together should lead to compatible micro- and macroeconomic data, so that detailed analyses can be made of survey data and national accounts aggregates and data from different surveys can be compared.

Statistical coordination for the internal market

All this work must be coordinated in order to adapt the Community statistical system to the requirements of the internal market, due for completion in 1992. In principle, the coordination work is internal. The aim is to make available to decision-makers (in Community institutions, national governments, business world, etc.) comparable, comprehensive, up-to-date and pertinent information.

Current problems concerning national accounts methodology

Ways must be found in the short term of adapting the methodology of national accounts to deal with recent developments in the economy. Solutions to current problems should be defined as they arise in meetings of the Community group of experts before the new ESA is introduced, in order to ensure that all transactions effected in the economy are suitably classified and dealt with.

Development of balance sheets

Whereas accounts covering economic flows have developed relatively satisfactorily at Community level, for some years there has been very little progress in drawing up and developing balance sheets. The availability of harmonized data on assets and changes in those assets is extremely important for any analysis of economic behaviour, especially that of households. This project aims to set up a system of balance sheets incorporated into national accounts. To this end, after methodological studies have been carried out, Eurostat's first task will be the standardized collection of the data available in some Member States, followed by the analysis, comparison and adjustment of the figures. The next stage will be to develop balance sheets for the remaining countries.

Cooperation: national accounts

This project is concerned with technical cooperation with non-Community countries, as part of Eurostat's cooperation programme. Eurostat provides technical assistance with national accounts and trying to improve the local capacity of the countries concerned. The main project is in Tanzania.

Methodology of purchasing power parities

The logic behind purchasing power parities is a comparison in real terms of the aggregates of the ESA between the European Community countries. Real per capita GDP can be used as an instrument for analysis and economic policies or as a criterion for sharing out Community receipts and expenditure (Social Fund, Regional Fund, Community financing).

Eurostat cooperates with other international organizations (OECD, UN, UN-Geneva) also working on international comparisons.

Future work on methodology will concentrate on three main points:

- improving the existing methodology for drawing up basic parities;
- giving further consideration to the adoption of an aggregation procedure consistent with the overall philosophy;
- the setting up of an annual system for calculating purchasing power parities and producing volume comparisons on the basis of annual price surveys (for approximately one third of the GDP basket) and through temporary indices (for the remaining two thirds). The first stage of this new system is already being implemented (1988).

Consumer price indices

Price indices, available in harmonized form very soon after the reference period, are an important instrument for the analysis of short-term economic trends in the Community.

For the annual calculation of purchasing power parities, the consumer price indices will have to be developed considerably in the short term, especially the detailed series, which should be available for the same level of detail as that used for the calculation of the parities.

Survey of final consumption prices (households and government)

These are price surveys carried out for the purpose of calculating purchasing power parities and GDP in real values.

Up to now, exhaustive surveys have been conducted for five separate years (base years), but in the next few years Eurostat is going to switch to a system of ongoing surveys, which will have the advantage of providing 'fresh' data on an annual basis and ensuring a more appropriate allocation over time of both human and financial resources. Every year, price surveys will be organized and parities will be calculated for a different sub-sample of products. The parities for products not included in the sub-sample will be extrapolated using price indices.

The Member States and other international organizations play a major part in this project. In particular, the Member States carry out the extensive price surveys, for which they receive a financial contribution from the Community. Some of the data obtained are used for the 'Weightings' project.

Price surveys on gross fixed capital formation

These price surveys are carried out for the calculation of purchasing power parities and GDP in real values.

Although Eurostat can rely on the national statistical institutes for assistance with the final consumption of households, it cannot do so at present for gross fixed capital formation. In this field, there are often no national price surveys or, if there are, they cover only certain groups of products or the methodological concepts vary from country to country. Moreover, a price survey of fixed capital goods, where definitions have to be worked out and prices obtained for plant or structures which are in many cases very complex, requires specific technical knowledge and the use of highly qualified staff.

Eurostat therefore carries out fixed capital goods surveys in cooperation with architects (for structures) or engineers (for capital goods).

As for the consumption of households, prices are assessed every year for approximately one third of the total sample. When it comes to investments, since national prices are not comparable, Eurostat derives price indices on the basis of the data collected annually, and these are used to extrapolate the total sample.

Regional price surveys

Price surveys are carried out at regional level in order to provide figures on differences in price levels within particular countries. They are conducted periodically in order to update the geographical coefficients *vis-à-vis* the capital cities of the Member States.

The regular price surveys for the calculation of purchasing power parities are carried out only in capital cities, whereas the parities applied to national accounts values must refer to national average prices. Priority is given to surveys in the larger Community countries and countries for which few data are available on regional price differences. Initially, they were expected to be held in Italy and Spain in 1988 and in France and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1989. The cooperation of the Member States which carry out these surveys is essential. The Community makes a financial contribution to survey costs.

Price surveys and consumption pattern surveys of staff in the Member States

- (a) Price surveys. The main requirement in the capitals of the Member States is to carry out a simplified survey to complement the data obtained from the major, annual purchasing power parity surveys. Full-scale surveys will be necessary at the research centres for which a specific weighting is requested.
- (b) Expenditure surveys. In addition to the annual rent surveys, family budget surveys of Community officials are to be carried out in 1989/1990 in Brussels and at the research centres to derive weighting structures to be used in calculating the purchasing power parities incorporated in the salary weightings and joint indices.

The Member States are directly involved in the price surveys, whereas for the expenditure pattern surveys they have a monitoring role within the Working Party on Article 64 of the Staff regulations and Joint Indices. The Inter-Organizations Study Section of the OECD is associated with the work with a view to harmonizing the method and data employed.

The results of the price surveys carried out in 1988, 1989 and 1990 will have to be analysed and updated in mid-1990 using specific price indices.

The Member States will receive payment from the Community for the price surveys, which to a large extent are carried out as part of the purchasing power parity project.

Price surveys and consumption pattern surveys of staff in non-Community countries

The Council Decision of October 1987 on the the new arrangements for remuneration of staff employed outside the Community forms the legal basis for this project.

- (a) Price surveys. Price surveys have to be carried out in the capitals of the non-Member countries to which Community officials are posted. About 25 countries per year are covered so that the

purchasing power parities for all the countries can be updated every three to four years.

- (b) Households expenditure surveys will also be carried out to provide a picture of both the consumption patterns at these places and the types of article purchased.

The surveys are to be carried out in close cooperation with other international bodies (UN International Civil Service Commission and OECD Inter-Organizations Study Section).

Payments will be made to non-member countries for conducting the price surveys.

EMS and ecu statistics

Data and other relevant information on the functioning of the EMS and the private use of the ecu are collected and published. The data collected include: issues of bonds in ecu, interest rates on ecu deposits, yields of ecu bonds, price indices in ecu and ecu exchange rates.

An important feature of these statistics is their short periodicity and thus their reliance on a number of different sources of information e.g. national official and private publications, the financial press and other Commission publications.

Financial accounts

The system of financial accounts, based on the European system of accounts (ESA), provides comparable statistics on the flow of funds between the institutional sectors of an economy and with the rest of the world.

Eurostat's main task consists in the collection of data, harmonization and the analysis of these financial flows. Methodological work in order to keep up with the developments in the financial markets – regarding both institutions and financial instruments – is needed on a constant basis. In most countries financial accounts are produced by the central banks, who have better access to information of a financial nature. The data are collected annually.

Financial balance sheets

The financial balance sheets show the outstanding amount of financial assets and liabilities of the sectors (households, government, etc.) of an economy. They can be seen as an indispensable complement to the project on financial accounts (flows), whose analysis would be extremely difficult and incomplete without information on balance sheets (stocks).

Two types of developments are thus envisaged: (a) financial balance sheets by sectors and (b) accounts reconciling flows and stocks. The project also includes the development of a harmonized methodology which will be in line with the revised system of National accounts of the United Nations.

Financial and monetary indicators

Eurostat collects, processes and disseminates time series of monetary and financial indicators. A wide range of indicators are covered, both prices (interest rates, exchanges rates, share price indices, etc.) and stocks (money supply, foreign reserves, etc). These statistics provide essential information to the monetary authorities on developments in the financial markets and the monitoring of monetary policy. They provide also a measure of the inter-country trends in the monetary variables and of the degree of integration of the financial markets in the Community.

In order to allow comparison between Member States, Eurostat has harmonized financial indicators and developed a Community scheme for the balance sheet of credit institutions, the money supply, and central government debt. These harmonized financial indicators will be further developed.

External position of Member States

Eurostat collects and harmonizes data from various national (mainly central banks) and international sources covering the financial position of each member country *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world. The external position of the whole economy is covered as well as that of the main sectors (government, banking sector, etc).

An important methodological characteristic of these statistics is their compliance with the rules – regarding both sectors and transactions – of the ESA. These statistics, which at present provide data without a geographical breakdown, are to be refined in order to show the consolidated position of the Community as a whole *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world.

Capital market statistics for a European financial area

The main areas of work deal with the statistical aspects of the integration of the national capital markets into a European market. Eurostat's principal task in this domain concerns the development of methods, sources and techniques for the collection of data on the supply of and demand for capital in this unified market.

The problems of nomenclature, financial innovation, institutional changes and other items linked to the functioning of the capital markets are also subjects that have to be dealt with. Cooperation is envisaged with central banks and other international financial institutions, as well as with professional organizations representing market participants.

Own resources: control of VAT

Management of the system of own resources based on VAT under Council regulations 2891/77 and 2892/77 involves a number of decisions and checks. Article 7 of regulation No 2892/77 explicitly mentions the use of national accounts data drawn up in accordance with the European system of integrated economic accounts (ESA).

These national accounts data are used when calculating the average weighted rate referred to in these regulations.

Eurostat is represented at the meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Community's Own Resources, whose purpose is to decide how the directives should be implemented and to assess requests by the Member States, at the beginning of each financial year, for permission to use simplified methods of calculating the value of certain transactions for which they have to make positive or negative adjustments. Eurostat is associated with DG XX (Financial Control) in the preparatory checks and with DG XIX (Budgets) in checking the statements drawn up by the Member States.

Public financing and staffing of R&D

Statistical data on R&D are needed for meetings of the Council. To this end, Eurostat makes use of national figures on public R&D expenditure, using the definitions adopted by the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST). After harmonization, this expenditure is categorized on the basis of a classification by socio-economic purpose (NABS edition 1983).

The current survey is confined to public R&D expenditure, but should be extended to R&D staffing. The mandate, which has been set by the CREST for its subcommittee 'R&D statistics' in 1978, requires such an expansion.

International trade statistics, relations with ACP and non-Community countries

Statistics on trade in goods between Member States after 1992

As a result of the introduction of the internal market, from 1993 onwards there will be no administrative or customs checks at the Community's internal frontiers. Eurostat had been working for some time already to set up a data collection system adapted to the requirements of the internal market, with a view to drawing up statistics on trade between Member States which will provide the information required by the Community and the individual Member States.

A framework regulation which has been conceived by the appropriate committee has been submitted to Council in early 1989. Two supplementary regulations about warehousing traffic and transit will be submitted to the Council in the months after the adoption of the framework regulation. The implementing provisions will be set up by the Commission before the end of 1990.

In 1991 and 1992 the new system will be tested throughout the Member States, and the Commission will make a financial contribution to this experimental phase. Once it has been tested and any modifications made, the new system will be implemented in 1993.

Statistics on international trade in services

The Community needs information on the free movement of services, especially in the context of the internal market. Eurostat is currently examining the statistical implications of these requirements with regard both to methods and sources of information. Proposals for drawing up these statistics will be submitted to the Member States in due course.

Classifications of goods for external trade

This work aims to adapt the statistical part of the Combined nomenclature to the requirements of the Community's external trade, in particular to technological developments, whilst ensuring that it is consistent with other Community or international classifications. Classification rules, proposals for amendments and explanatory notes have to be drawn up or made more specific so that the classifications decided upon by the Council can be correctly interpreted and uniformly applied.

The legal basis for this activity is Council regulation 2658/87 EEC on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the common customs tariff.

Classification of countries

This activity covers the updating of the Community geonomenclature on the basis of Council regulation 1736/75 on the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

Eurostat prepares currently a new regulation about the country classification together with the Directorate-General 'Customs Union and Indirect Taxation'. This new regulation will serve both tariff and statistics purposes.

Management and development of the methodology of external trade statistics

Uniform application of the methodology of external trade statistics in all Member States is essential for reliable and meaningful trade statistics. This uniformity is, however, very difficult to achieve in view of the remaining differences, considerably reduced though they may be, between Member States in their national methodologies. The main objectives of the 'External Trade Statistics Committee are thus to ensure the application of Community methods in so far as they are already harmonized through various regulations (No 1736/75, No 200/83 and No 2954/85) and to develop Community methods through new regulations.

The correct application of the Community regulations is being monitored on agreed bases, and new methodological developments are planned on a realistic timetable. Proposals for Council regulations on confidentiality, statistical value and bonded warehouse statistics are being prepared.

Methodological differences also restrict the comparability of Community statistics and the statistics of partner countries. A project is therefore on the drawing board to rectify these differences, starting with the EFTA countries, the United States and Japan. Expert groups will meet to examine proposals which should lead to agreements on international harmonization (either within the United Nations or in the OECD) even if Community methods have to be adapted to a certain extent.

Production of external trade statistics

The regular production of comprehensive, detailed and harmonized figures on the external trade of the Community countries requires considerable data processing resources in both Eurostat and the Member States. Eurostat's Comext informatics system has been set up to process the mass of data (approximately 2 million items per month), analyse them rationally and disseminate the information widely, both internally and externally.

The programme is intended to improve the system used for retro-active data correction and the handling of confidential data at collection level, adapt and extend the system so that it will accept the new harmonized classifications (HS, CN and Taric) and draw up new statistics by mode of transport. These new requirements mean that the system must be reformed. The programme will also be reviewed to make a clearer distinction between external trade with non-Community countries and trade between Member States following proposals to be made with 1992 in mind.

Comext database

All Community trade statistics are made available to Commission users in the Comext database, where time series may be accessed both on-line and off-line, with facilities for tabulation, aggregation, graphics, calculation and combination with other sources. A major programme for consolidation and improvement in line with user requirements and the creation of satellite databases to meet specific requirements, together with alterations to cope with changes in production, will require considerable further data processing resources in future years.

The Comext system will also be extended so that direct comparisons may be made with the statistics of the major partner countries.

Processing of external trade statistics classifications

Linked with the Comext system is an important sub-project for processing texts, codes and footnotes connected with the various classifications, updating them and drawing up correlation tables for the different classifications. This project became even more important when the previous systems lapsed following the introduction of new international classifications. Major changes are also being introduced, to exploit the new possibilities for processing statistics at the level of the detailed Taric classification, for which an interface with Taric database has to be developed.

Tariff and trade statistics (Starcom)

The introduction of the Combined nomenclature for tariff and statistical purposes has made it possible to set up a new data-processing tool to link the tariff and trade databases, in order to carry out analyses and simulations of tariff statistics to be used mainly in preparation for the Uruguay Round GATT negotiations.

In view of the importance and urgency of these negotiations, the Starcom project has been granted top priority. GSP statistics and the calculation of resources from customs duties are sub-systems which will use this system.

Production of GSP statistics

The system of GSP statistics will undergo a radical reorganization on the basis of studies presently being carried out, in order to eliminate the differences between economic statistics and administrative records by improving coordination between appropriate departments in the Member States. The introduction of the single administrative document and the Taric hold out hope for progress in this field.

Our resources: assessment of resources accruing from customs duties

The highly complex calculations involved, based on very detailed, differing classifications, require special efforts to analyse customs regulations and draw up rules governing the calculations which can be followed by the various users.

This project will use the Starcom infrastructure to carry out the estimates required. The initial work will be done in 1989 in cooperation with DG XIX and the Court of Auditors.

External trade indices

External trade indices have recently become available. They are now published regularly and can also be extracted from a database (Trend). The changeover from Nimexe to CN has been a drawback, but work is now under way to ensure a smooth transition. A special index for high-technology products is now planned.

World trade matrix

It is extremely difficult to set up a matrix of world-level trade in sufficient detail, since too many data are regularly missing. Eurostat intends to develop a prototype, to be completed with the help of an expert system, and to start regular production of such a matrix. An extension to certain groups of products is envisaged.

Seasonal adjustment

Trade data often show marked seasonal variations which may impede analysis. The intention is, therefore, to study methods used for the seasonal adjustment of external trade data and, on the basis of this study, to develop an appropriate instrument.

Balance of payments methodology

The IMF manual is due to be revised shortly in order to take account of the need for more detailed data on services. Furthermore, the classification of current transactions (goods, services, income and transfers) will be broken down in greater detail. Eurostat will draw up proposals which will be examined with representatives of the national statistical offices in the appropriate working party.

Balance of payments statistics

Balance of payments statistics are updated quarterly and will now be more detailed, since a breakdown by partner country will be given for the main current transactions, at least on an annual basis. This extension has long been requested by DG I, but will only be possible if the Member States provide the data required.

Balance of payments of the European institutions

In order to obtain appropriately consolidated balance of payments statistics for both the European Community and for individual Member States, the Community institutions must be incorporated into the system. It is therefore intended to develop a suitable system based on budgetary data.

International capital movements

Eurostat intends to draw up data on international capital movements, broken down by branch and partner country. Although there has for a long time been an intention to draw up these statistics (Article 72 of the EEC Treaty), it has never been possible to draw them up since certain Member States could not supply the necessary data. Improvements may now be expected and, if they materialize, the project should concentrate on analysing and publishing the data.

Survey on trade in services

Eurostat must improve statistics on trade in services since services are high on the agenda of the Uruguay Round negotiations. The data currently available on trade in services, based on balance of payments statistics, are inadequate (about a dozen headings for trade in services as compared to 9 500 for trade in goods). On top of this, the quality of services data is inferior to that of trade data (lack of harmonization, differences between gross and net flows, etc.).

The survey on trade in services is intended to create a new source of data for use by both the Commission and the Member States. The latter are therefore involved in the project, not only through taking part in the activities of the relevant working parties but also by being directly involved in carrying out the survey.

International trade in services

This project consists of analysing data on international trade in services. In view of the quality of the available information, estimates will have to be made and there will have to be concessions on flows,

mainly in order to reduce asymmetries. A database is to be set up as a result of this project and a statistical analysis will be published of the Community's position in international trade in services – in line with the requirements of the various Commission departments engaged in multilateral trade negotiations (Article 113 of the EEC Treaty).

The latest publication in this field, 'The European Community's external trade in services', did not include any EUR 12 aggregate. The next publication should fill this gap, giving more detailed information on the various types of service and providing higher quality information. For this to be successful, the Member States will have to provide information in as much detail as possible, in line with the new questionnaire on services.

Cooperation: Training of statisticians

Coordination of training projects for statisticians from developing countries supported and financed by the Community (helping to manage and run the CESD – asbl and the Munich Centre; coordination and follow-up work on the second project providing backup for the STPA; support for the establishment of new training centres).

Cooperation: External trade statistics

Studying, improving and harmonizing the external trade statistics of the developing countries and their regional organizations (methodological support, implementation of the Harmonized system, introduction of the Sydonia/Asycuda and Trace/Cadet software).

Cooperation: Statistics for food and rural development policies

Improvement of the data needed for the design and management of food policies (forecasts and harvests, early warning system, monitoring of the consumption, production and marketing of food products, coordination in the field, survey development).

Cooperation: Statistical projects in other fields

Yugoslavia:

- Improvement of statistics under the EEC-FSRY agreement.

Algeria:

- Development of regional, external trade and agricultural statistics.

Trinidad and Tobago:

- EDF project for statistical backup for planning.

China:

- Action in the field of external trade and industrial statistics.

Latin America:

- Support for Andean Pact (agriculture, industry and services), SIECA (external trade) projects and Mexico (link with European databases).

Project for improving agricultural statistics in Tunisia, geared to three main themes:

- survey processing, on the basis of technical support and the supply of microeconomic equipment;
- testing an alternative methodology for processing the results;
- preparation of new specific surveys.

Cooperation: Statistics for social policies

This project deals with the production of (and improvement of the countries' own ability to produce) statistical data which can be used to measure and monitor the social consequences of structural adjustment, particularly in the context of Lomé IV. Statistical cooperation with the 'Social dimension of adjustment' (SDA) programme, representation on the project's steering committee and technical backup and monitoring for work (household surveys etc) to be carried out in the participating countries is also covered. This project is expected to run for five years.

Data-processing in the field of public finance in Africa

Taking part in the project to computerize public administration in Africa, with the aim of improving the management of public finance via the use of data processing tools appropriate for the various situations encountered on the African continent.

Enterprise statistics

Statistical confidentiality and security

Implementation of the large internal market will inevitably lead to a greater need for harmonized and detailed statistical data.

The present system of statistics, particularly industrial statistics, is handicapped by the inability of Member States to send to Eurostat data regarded according to national rules or customs as confidential. Eurostat is preparing a legal instrument which will allow Member States to supply it with such data.

It is hoped that the regulation will be adopted in first half of 1989 and that the necessary implementing decisions will be taken before the end of 1989 so that data can be delivered without missing elements from 1990 onwards.

The objective of the 'security and confidentiality' project is to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken to guarantee that confidential data are protected within Eurostat. This is a prerequisite for the transmission of disaggregated data from Member States to Eurostat. This can only be achieved through discussions and cooperation with the national statistical institutes.

Development and implementation of new data analysis systems

Development of statistical analyses systems

The nature and volume of statistics currently available mean that sophisticated data analysis techniques have to be used. Analysis is a necessary part of the data processing chain, from plausibility checks on the material supplied to the retrieval of relevant information. The 'Development and implementation of new data analysis systems' project enables new data analysis tools to be utilized, thus improving the quality of the input and the readability of the published results.

Specific methods are being developed and data analysis seminars organized.

Data analysis assistance

If the European institutions are to function efficiently, available statistics must be exploited to the full, which often involves the use of complex analysis techniques. The aims of this project are first of all to help Eurostat and the Commission to use these techniques and then to profit from the technical developments achieved in the various Member States by providing maximum follow-up and support.

Statistics on energy production

Monthly and annual supply and demand data for solid fuels, oil, gas and electricity form the backbone of the energy statistics system. Apart from allowing supply and demand for an important Community resource to be monitored, coal statistics also provide information on employment and productivity within the coal industry.

Hydrocarbons statistics permit, in particular, an assessment of security of supply and the diversification process.

In the case of electricity, the basic statistics are used to prepare annual balance sheets for power stations and to assess fuel substitution possibilities.

Nuclear energy statistics are based on a monthly survey of nuclear power plants covering various aspects of nuclear energy production (capacity, available energy, thermal energy, utilization, hours on line, etc). A profile for each power plant is sketched, and the evolution of the structure of the nuclear power industry as a whole is described. Nuclear energy statistics are supplemented by information on the causes, duration and frequency of unavailability.

Dramatic changes have taken place in the energy sector since the first oil crisis. The rise of the nuclear industry is already reflected in the system of energy statistics. But with rising environmental concerns renewable sources of energy are likely to gain in importance, and the system needs to be extended to cover these. A project is already under way to assess information readily available and methodological issues are being studied. A system of data collection has to be developed, and the results incorporated into aggregate energy statistics.

Global energy balance sheets

Quarterly and annual energy balance sheets are compiled from the basic energy statistics and used to study commercial cycles and energy utilization in different sectors of the European economy in general and the efficiency of energy utilization in particular. They are equally valuable as tools for developing models and making forecasts.

Energy input-output tables

Energy input-output tables cover the intermediate exchange of energy between 43 branches, 10 of which are energy branches. These

tables are supplemented by import matrices, a table of resources, and tables of energy flows in values and quantities.

The input-output tables provide an excellent tool for analysing the energy sector and studying the interdependence between trends in the economy at large and the use of energy. They also establish a valuable link between national accounts and energy balance sheets.

Energy prices

Energy price statistics are prepared on the basis of surveys and with the help of chambers of commerce and university institutes. The surveys are supplemented by foreign trade statistics.

These statistics contribute to market transparency, a particularly important aspect for the internal market. They also assist the analytical work undertaken by the Commission, research institutes and business.

Energy related investment

In view of the importance of energy-related investment, information has to be collected from various sources, adequately processed and sufficiently harmonized in order to supplement the system of energy statistics.

Energy indicators

The current system of energy statistics is fairly well developed and thus provides ample possibilities for the construction of indicators for energy efficiency. These have to be developed in the context of energy balance sheets, national accounts and econometric models used by the Commission.

Survey on energy consumption in households

Households are important consumers of energy with a share of about 25% of final energy consumption, or some ECU 100 billion. Thus it is very important to know more about household energy consumption; information is currently obtained only as a spin-off from other data. A household survey can further a policy aiming at energy efficiency and to provide a valuable insight into the complex process of energy substitution.

The project is already under way, as budget resources for a survey were made available by six Member States in 1987. The others will follow in 1989. The survey will be completed at the end of 1989, and the first results should be available in 1990.

Surveys on industrial energy consumption

Community-level harmonization of methods, in the same way as for a survey, is a vital point which poses problems in the analysis of consumption by branch. Technical and financial aid to those countries not having *ad hoc* surveys (Portugal, Greece and Ireland) can also improve comparability at Community level.

Energy information system (EIS)

Energy database

The current status of the system of energy statistics allows movement towards an integrated database for the whole system, supplemented by information prepared elsewhere, in particular by DG XVII.

This database is intended to become the backbone of the system and will be integrated into the new architecture of Eurostat databases.

Graphic representation of energy flows

Software permitting description of energy flows from production to useful energy.

Adapting the industrial statistics system to the needs of the internal market

Existing tools for industrial statistics are not completely satisfactory for the purposes they are intended to meet and do not fulfil all information needs. New avenues must be explored to find other possibilities: use of industrial registers and panels, upgrading of existing tools (short term indicators, annual survey, product statistics), seminars in particular with Member States in order to exchange experience on these questions, and specific studies.

Panels and registers

Work on panels will extend over several years (methodological studies, discussions with parties concerned – especially the Member States – on the appropriateness of different approaches, practical experimentation).

Member States will be closely associated with this project, and will subsequently be involved in the direct management of panels. Another avenue being explored is registers, which are not only useful but even essential for the whole project. They also generate information which is valuable in its own right, in particular on industrial demography.

Extending statistics covering short-term industrial indicators

- (i) faster transmission of existing indicators;
- (ii) preparation and publication of an index of industrial producer prices;
- (iii) enhanced level of detail for the 12 indicators;
- (iv) distinction between the domestic market, the rest of the Community and non-Community countries.

Industrial product statistics

Proposal for a new approach in which Member States furnish product statistics based on an external trade classification.

Industrial enterprise statistics

- More rapid supply of information.
- Use of estimates to update figures.
- Better coverage of small enterprises.

Seminars and studies

- Exchange of information between statisticians, public authorities and users.
- Studies and reflection on the possibilities and methods for the development of the statistical system (methods, approaches, feedback of information to business).

Current industrial statistics: collection, management, analysis, dissemination of data.

Short term industrial indicators

Regular and rapid provision of comprehensible indicators on the industrial situation in each Member State at the most detailed level possible. Production of a monthly publication, storage of data in a consultation database and contributions to Eurostat's general publications on the economy.

Industrial production statistics

Regular and rapid provision of detailed figures on output (sales) of representative industrial products.

Statistics on the structure of industrial enterprises

Provision of harmonized data on the structure of industrial enterprises employing at least 20 persons, and five-yearly figures for all enterprises. Production of an annual publication and special publications, e.g. on a regional or size class basis.

Statistical analyses and synopses

Improved provision of all variables for a given sector, including data on external trade in goods produced in that sector.

Synopses also include compilations of comparative data from our two major competitors, the USA and Japan.

Development of statistical expert systems: Doses

The project aims at improving the potential for producing and exploiting statistical information by using advanced data processing and other techniques.

The Doses project (Development of statistical expert systems) covers research into and development of advanced techniques for data manipulation and compiling of statistics. A budget spread over four years will be used to provide a certain amount of aid for several joint projects, consultations and dissemination of results.

This programme should benefit both statisticians, through enhanced productivity, and users of statistics, through a better service.

Statistics for the evaluation of Community research and development programmes

The Commission has stressed the need for statistical information to play an important role in the systems for evaluating Community research and development programmes.

It is therefore necessary, in cooperation with the Commission and the national authorities concerned to support the development of a harmonized statistical system for the specific purpose of evaluating the major Community programmes in this field.

Consultations with other Commission services have taken place, feasibility studies are under way, and work on the harmonization of concepts and the development of a processing and analysis system is scheduled for 1989 to 1992.

Statistics on research and development

There is an increasing interest in how science and technology can be harnessed to contribute to the adaptation of Member States' economies necessary to meet new challenges. The design of policies trying to encourage progress requires accurate knowledge about trends in the science and technology endeavours. Statistical indicators are devised in order to support management of science and technology policies in the Member States and the Community as a whole.

Statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises

The 'Task Force on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' is undertaking two projects of a statistical nature involving the collection of macrodata and microdata on businesses. Eurostat is working closely with the TFSME to ensure that wherever possible use is made of existing official statistics. However, in some cases the urgent need for data, combined with the inability of national statistical institutes to provide the same, (particularly individual data, where problems of confidentiality arise) mean that it is necessary to turn to private institutes. Eurostat has been involved in negotiations with the Member States and will also be involved in data manipulation to ensure maximum efficiency through the use of existing infrastructure and expertise. Most national statistical institutes will supply tabular data on an annual basis. This project will also serve as pilot work for the panel project; it will, however, be discussed by the Committee for Industrial Statistics.

Assistance to the enterprise statistics systems of certain Member States

Certain new or small Member States have particular difficulties in meeting the Community requirements for industrial and services statistics.

Each Member State concerned will therefore draw up and implement a restructuring plan in collaboration with Eurostat.

Enterprise activity and product classifications

Contributions to the development of existing classifications such as NACE or the CPC (Com) by bringing to bear the detailed knowledge and requirements of the producers and users of official and other enterprise statistics.

Cooperation: Industrial statistics

Collaboration by Eurostat in the form of technical assistance in accordance with needs and resources, evaluation of programmes, recruitment of experts, practical contributions, staff training and organization of meetings.

The sector is of particular importance and there is great interest in having at least a framework of reliable official statistics against which to calibrate the plethora of unofficial data. There are technical aspects to be resolved, as well as data supply problems. Different approaches are being adopted in different countries. This project aims to set up a general system following a study of methods and sources.

Raw materials balance sheets

The policy governing the supply and recycling of raw materials is an integral part of industrial strategy which has become more important as a result of environmental problems.

Supply balance sheets for 27 raw materials considered to be important by the Commission and governments of the Member States constitute the statistical instrument which enables the Community's degree of self-sufficiency to be measured. These balance sheets are prepared annually and are supplemented by studies covering the recycling of certain metals.

Steel statistics

These activities involve the organization of a statistical survey on production, new orders, deliveries, and external trade in steel products as well as the checking and storage of data. Monthly, quarterly, and annual data are disseminated through several monthly publications and Cronos.

The national statistical offices are usually not involved in these surveys as data provided by steel industry associations are used. The main partners for Eurostat are national associations, the European association Eurofer in Brussels and competent Commission services.

The main objective of these and all other activities concerning steel is to set up an integrated database on steel over the next few years.

Raw material input of the steel industry

Statistics on raw material input (principally energy, iron ore and scrap) in the steel industry are important for Community supply policy. The information is based primarily on a survey of the extractive and scrap industries; figures are published on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and disseminated through Cronos.

Market statistics

A steel industry survey is carried out, covering order books, deliveries, supplies and stocks. The results are supplemented by statistics on direct and indirect external trade in steel, enabling apparent steel consumption to be calculated.

Steel input by branch

Steel input by branch statistics provide very important indicators for restructuring policy. Eurostat therefore compiles an annual table for each Member State and a statistical synopsis for the Community. Sectoral analyses are also prepared.

These statistics attract considerable interest throughout the steel industry and among decision-makers. They are especially important for the compiling of input-output tables for the steel industry (Eurostat) and for medium and long term steel consumption forecasts.

'Steel' input-output table

The steel input-output table allows the steel industry to be placed in a more general economic context. The project launched by Eurostat for this reason will become fully operational in 1988. A 1980 table for most Member States has been completed and tables for the remaining Member States and the Community as a whole will be available soon. A 1985 table is already planned.

The Member States are involved in this work as the tables are based on a harmonized scheme. It is intended to speed up the process and to supplement the system with an extrapolation tool.

Service enterprises

Community work in this domain covers the following two aspects, which are closely interlinked:

- (a) data collection and analysis, on the basis of sources already available;
- (b) development of methodologies and legal bases for the establishment of a system of statistics covering services.

The first phase of the programme aims to complete the inventory of official and non-official information available at both national and international levels, to set up a database on services, and to continue and speed up the methodological work on the concepts to be used.

A second phase, due to begin in 1990, will be devoted to the utilization of administrative sources and registers.

Subsequently, an assessment will be carried out of the feasibility of Community surveys on certain aspects of services as a whole and/or on sectoral aspects covering certain priority areas.

The implementation of the survey programme in the second phase will require Community directives providing for financial contributions to the Member States.

In the light of the need for overall information on services and the disparate nature of the various service sectors, the creation of the statistical information system must adopt a dual approach:

- definition of an overall conceptual framework for services,
- division of that framework into separate areas to take account of the particular features of the various service sectors,

while ensuring maximum synergy between the two components.

The 'Services statistics' project has therefore been divided into the following sub-projects:

Horizontal sub-projects

General framework of services

The sub-project is aimed at establishing a common set of variables for all service sectors and will lay down the methodology for measuring these variables in entities which produce services. The initial phase of the project will define the framework for data collection in the Member States (surveys, registers, panels, etc.). The data available will then be collected and analysed in order to assess harmonization requirements and determine the appropriate legal framework.

The sub-project will have to coordinate all this work at Community level and with international organizations, as well as coordinating all statistics in downstream sectors. It will have to include special measures to meet any requests for information not covered by the sectoral sub-projects in the programme, notably in the field of community services and leisure and personal services.

Services database

The data collected in the various projects on services will need to be assembled and structured in a horizontal services database. Initially, the database will be structured in three major data categories:

- official data collected in the Member States, using national concepts which have not been harmonized;
- data drawn from other Eurostat projects covering services;
- non-official data collected in conjunction with other Commission departments.

In a second phase, the methodological work on the various services sub-projects in the programme should allow the creation of a set of data harmonized at Community level.

Sectoral sub-projects

For each sectoral sub-project it will be necessary to:

- assess in each Member State the feasibility of applying the data collection methods and systems laid down for all services;
- determine the variables and detailed nomenclatures relating to particular sectors which are needed to meet the data requirements resulting from the disparate nature of all the various service sectors.

Distributive trade

The aims of this sub-project are:

- to finalize and implement the 'General reference programme for statistics on enterprises in wholesale and retail distribution in the countries of the European Economic Community' already drawn up by Eurostat;
- to monitor changes in the sector caused by the economic crisis and the application of new technologies.

Horeca (hotels and catering) and travel agencies

Special indicators will have to be prepared for this sector, which is characterized by a very large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a high percentage of independent operators and by seasonal work.

In the case of travel agencies, particular attention will have to be paid to the ancillary activities of certain large enterprises (banks, insurance companies and large stores), which have a very large impact on the activity of the sector as a whole. In view of the similarities in the problems involved, these two sectors will be developed in conjunction with tourism statistics.

Transport activities

This sub-project will supplement existing statistics on transport flows by adding financial and economic data on enterprises.

Financial services (including insurance)

Work will cover credit institutions, insurance companies, stock exchanges and securities, leasing, etc.

The sector will be analysed from three standpoints:

- (1) structural, which means institutional;
- (2) financial operations (creation of financial services);
- (3) measurement of the value added of financial services.

Given the importance accorded to these sectors in national accounts, particular attention will be paid to the micro/macroeconomic aspect of the statistics obtained.

Communications, data processing services

The project objectives are as follows:

- to compile statistics on firms offering communications and computer services;
- to compile statistics on the infrastructure of the sector;
- to supply the statistical data needed to create a European observatory of the information market;
- to study the impact of information on the services offered in the various service sectors. This study should take the form of a functional analysis.

Business services

Community work in this domain is directed at the compilation of the statistical data needed to monitor the evolution of the sector as a result of changes stemming from the application of new technologies (advanced service industries).

The project will analyse, jointly with the industry projects, the buying-in of services by businesses.

Transport

Eurostat's work in this field had been based on a sub-project covering the activities of transport enterprises and two projects relating to transport flows and infrastructure, which themselves are divided into sub-projects.

The transport activities sub-project comes under the broader framework of service enterprises statistics and is designed to provide financial and economic data on those enterprises.

The transport methodology project is designed to meet the information requirements created by recent developments in transport policy. It has been divided into the following five sub-projects/activities:

- (1) Seaport and maritime transport statistics.
- (2) Airport and air transport statistics.
- (3) Transit statistics (Austria, Yugoslavia and Switzerland).
- (4) Impact of 1992 on existing and future transport statistics.
- (5) Passenger transport statistics.

Transport – production and development

This project has been divided into the following sub-projects/activities:

- (1) Trains database and publications.
- (2) Extension of the directives covering goods transport by road, rail and inland waterway.
- (3) External trade by mode of transport.
- (4) Road safety.

The Commission's Directorate-General VII 'Transport' is undertaking other work with a large statistics component.

The work covers:

- the system for monitoring the internal market in transport by road, rail and inland waterway;
- the activities of road hauliers operating to and from certain non-Community countries;
- the monitoring of Community quotas (tonnes transported, tonne-kilometres) for road transport;
- the monitoring of competition between Community and non-Community maritime transporters;
- infrastructure costs;
- the economic situation of the railways (accounts and operational data).

Tourism

Because of their horizontal nature, tourism statistics require an approach involving several statistical domains. Given the similarities with services, Eurostat is endeavouring to integrate work on tourism statistics into the broader framework of the design and implementation of a statistical system for service enterprises.

In order to avoid a proliferation of projects and given the similarities mentioned, work on hotels and catering (Horeca services) and travel agencies has been included in the tourism project.

A Draft directive and a Draft regulation will be put before the Council with a view to supplying the basic data in this domain.

The draft directive covers accommodation capacity, prices, foreign tourist arrivals, etc.

The draft regulation deals with the organization of a sample survey of the holidays of European Community residents.

Passenger transport statistics form part of the transport methodology project.

Revenue from and expenditure on international tourism come under the balance-of-payments and international trade in services projects.

The data are contained in structured form in the TOUR database (tourism).

Social statistics – Regional statistics

Active and non-active population in the Community

The assessment of the economic and social situation needs a coherent statistical basis which will provide an overall picture of the active and non-active populations and bring out the specific characteristics of the different categories of population (active/non-active, young/older, male/female, etc.) and Member States.

To produce this statistical basis, as much information as possible must be collected on the different aspects of activity (employment, unemployment, training, working conditions, etc.) and the degree of integration into the labour market (activity rate, unemployment rate, volume of work, etc.).

This means developing a presentation system in collaboration with the user DGs, carrying out more analyses and collecting additional data.

Employment and unemployment: monitoring of trends and structures

Regular monitoring of the trends and structures of employment and unemployment at Community, national and regional levels is necessary to achieve one of the main aims of the Single European Act – economic and social cohesion.

The collection of national annual estimates on the active population and employment will be continued.

- In the coming years methodological work will be stepped up to improve both familiarity with the methods and definitions used in the national series and the consistency of the data in relation to the same kind of information within a country and from one country to another.
- Where employment is concerned, more frequent estimates will be made to improve the short-term assessment of employment. The transmission of quarterly data will have to be made general. The annual data on trends in employment and unemployment will be supplemented – mainly for Community purposes – by the results obtained from the labour force surveys.
- The greater need for reliable unemployment statistics as a backup to the European Funds, in particular the Social Fund, is already apparent. This will place extra demands on the Member States, particularly as regards long-term unemployment (plans have been made for the harmonization of administrative data on this subject).

The Community labour force survey

The labour force survey has become a fundamental statistical instrument for the collection of coherent and comparable data on the population, employment and unemployment in the Community.

After 10 years of stability with respect to methods and definitions, however, this survey needs to be modernized and adapted to meet the statistical requirements arising from the Single Act and its aims. A revision of the labour force survey is therefore planned, but as far as possible continuity will be maintained without overloading the survey.

The results of the labour force survey will also meet statistical requirements in the following main socio-economic fields:

- education and vocational training (level, duration, type, object, relation with present and former activity, further training and work/training programmes),
- working conditions (amount of work desired, forms and procedures, duration of contracts, size of enterprise),
- occupational and geographical mobility (number of employers, reasons for mobility, duration of jobs, place of work in relation to place of residence, urban or rural district, etc.),
- marginal employment (under-employed or discouraged workers, etc.).

It will also provide comprehensive data on economic activities and professions.

Some Member States already include information of this sort in their national surveys. Eurostat will take account of their experiences when deciding which elements to include in the new series of labour force surveys.

The revision of the labour force survey for the 1990s will also affect the methodology, mainly by improving the quality of certain regional estimates at NUTS-2 level (e.g. long-term unemployment), so that

they can be used as a basis for a more detailed breakdown at NUTS-3 level. This could be achieved by appropriate modifications to national sampling plans and by increasing the size of the samples.

The first survey in the new series should take place in 1992.

The present financial contribution of the EEC, which covers only a small part of the Member States' total costs, might not be sufficient for the new series of surveys. This problem will be investigated in the light of the changes required to meet the needs of the Community.

Development of statistics on hours of work and volume of work

In view of the reduction in weekly, monthly and annual working hours and the emergence of new forms of employment, in particular part-time work, a more detailed analysis of employment is required than that supplied by the conventional method of counting the number of physical persons.

An estimation methodology is therefore needed to calculate the volume of work, taking into account the needs of both economic and social analysis.

This will entail the re-examination of existing data on hours of work and the revision of certain series, if necessary, to enable them to be used in the estimates. The examination and collection of data will not be limited to statistics relating directly to hours of work, but will extend to data on all forms of absenteeism (leave, sickness, industrial disputes, etc.).

Adaptation of employment statistics to the new forms of employment and to the changing structure of employment

At a time of rapid innovation and change, without constant adaptation of the employment statistics to keep pace with the new developments, it will be impossible to obtain a clear picture of the changing structures and forms of employment and the impact of employment policies.

It is particularly important:

- to understand and monitor the measures taken at national level to combat unemployment and promote employment, to assess the number of persons affected and ensure the uniform treatment of these groups in the different national and Community statistics;
- to understand the new forms of employment and non-standard jobs;
- to define the persons with only marginal links with the labour market, due to discouragement, under-employment, etc.

For this reason, a major methodological study is to be carried out in close collaboration with the ILO and the OECD. The results of this study will be introduced into the various statistics at a later date.

Population and housing statistics

In the same way as the national censuses of the population provide essential background information for many aspects of national administration, so the data on population trends at Community level are essential to the work of the Commission departments. In the past, however, the wide divergence of census data between the Member States and the very different methods of presenting the results have made it difficult to extract full value, for Community purposes, from the wealth of statistics available from the national censuses.

A Community programme has been decided upon for the next round of population censuses, to take place in 1990 (in France) and 1991 (in the other countries) and is covered by a Council directive (87/287/EEC). This directive is more flexible than that for the 1981 round of censuses, as regards both the dates of the surveys and the manner in which the data are collected. In particular, it permits those Member States which are unable to carry out exhaustive censuses to provide the programme material on the basis of alternative methods, such as registers or sample surveys.

The principal series of population statistics (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, infant mortality, migration, current population estimates, population projections, life expectancy, etc.) provide essential background information for the Commission's work. The general outline of the work has been decided upon, and is regularly discussed with the Member States, mainly with a view to improving the availability of population projections at Community level.

Other statistical sources, such as household surveys carried out by Member States and more particularly the labour force sample surveys, will be examined systematically to determine how reliable they are as a statistical source for households and families.

Research will be carried out, on the basis of panel surveys, into social stratification and the mobility of successive generations within individual socio-economic categories.

As regards housing, statistical data are needed to draw up a programme of social action and prepare a European social budget.

The work schedule is as follows:

- tabulation of the 1981 housing census results
- study of public housing schemes
- systematic study of national housing statistics.

Education and vocational training

Eurostat intends to maintain and improve the existing education statistics system. At present, data on the education system are transmitted on joint questionnaires to Unesco, the OECD and Eurostat. Data on the ordinary and higher education systems are collected from official sources in the Member States and harmonized in accordance with the ISCED (International standard classification of education).

As the national education systems are very diverse, there seems no likelihood of the statistics being made wholly comparable. Nevertheless, Eurostat, Unesco and the OECD will cooperate to try to improve comparability.

Eurostat will also reexamine the objectives of its programme in order to satisfy demands for more regular dissemination by publishing statistics from sources other than the joint questionnaires, such as the Community labour force survey.

Vocational training systems vary considerably from one Member State to the next and even within individual Member States. There are no global statistics at present, even at national level. In collaboration with Cedefop (Centre for the Development of Vocational Training), Eurostat will draw up questionnaires to obtain administrative data on numbers, diplomas and expenditure by government department.

As regards training in enterprises, including the costs of such training, Eurostat intends to carry out sample surveys and/or to add questions to existing questionnaires. The first usable statistics are not expected to be available before 1990.

Health and safety at work

In response to concern about the social aspects of the internal market, Eurostat intends to supply harmonized statistics on health and safety.

Data on health will have to be taken initially from existing sources, in particular the World Health Organization publications, and will concentrate on two main aspects: evaluation of government expenditure on health, and study of regional variations in mortality and the causes of death.

As regards safety at work, Eurostat is continuing to collect comparable statistics on occupational accidents in the European Community, in collaboration with the competent institutions of Member States. Eurostat has been consulted on the methodological aspects and should be involved in the processing of the data.

As regards safety at home and at leisure, DG XI has developed a European home and leisure surveillance system based on administrative registers supplied by samples of hospitals. The system is to be improved, in collaboration with Eurostat, by introducing new household surveys or adding new questions to existing ones.

Poverty

In the wake of the Council Decision of 19 December 1984 concerning a specific Community action to fight poverty, Eurostat, in collaboration with the Member States' national statistical institutes, has launched a work programme aiming to establish a harmonized system of statistics on poverty in the Community.

The work programme has the following objectives:

- to study the possibility of obtaining statistics on poverty from Esspros (European system of integrated social protection statistics);
- to harmonize and develop family budget surveys;
- to carry out statistical analyses to identify the structural causes of poverty;
- to analyse the feasibility of a poverty monitoring system on the basis of administrative registers;
- to search for new data sources on the population not covered by conventional sources (the homeless, residents in institutions, etc.).

In addition, Eurostat is studying the possibility of using household panel surveys to analyse fluctuations in poverty. These surveys are intended to supply long-term time series of social indicators and to permit the continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of social security systems.

Family budget surveys

Family budget surveys are an extremely valuable source of information on households' income and consumption. As well as being useful for determining the consumption structures necessary to calculate price indices and purchasing power parities, they constitute an invaluable source of data for analyses of poverty and income distribution, improving household accounts in national accounts and, in certain cases, improving understanding of the global income of agricultural households.

To achieve these objectives, greater harmonization of the following aspects of the surveys is needed: concepts, classification of variables and data collection and processing methods. The Member States will be asked to introduce Community questions into their national questionnaires and to send Eurostat cross-tabulations drawn up according to a Community plan.

Wages, salaries and labour costs

Eurostat's aim is to supply the Commission departments and the two sides of industry with structural and economic information on earnings and labour costs.

The work will consist basically of continuing data collection and improvement of these data and continuing and improving the existing statistical surveys.

The survey of labour costs in industry and services will provide a structural analysis of labour costs every four years. The 1988 survey, which follows on from the 1984 survey, is covered by a draft Council regulation. The data will be collected by the national offices, which will receive financial aid under the regulation.

The harmonized earnings statistics provide six-monthly data on the earnings of manual and non-manual workers and labour costs in 65 industrial and 21 services branches. The national institutes collect the data from enterprises and process them; the possibility of extending them to non-manual workers' monthly earnings is being investigated.

The survey of earnings in agriculture is a biennial survey based on Council directive 82/606/EEC, which will be continued at least until 1990. The national institutes are responsible for collecting data and receive financial aid under the directive. Changes are now being examined by the Council. Eurostat will present a detailed report by 1990 at the latest on the surveys provided for under this directive. This report will be accompanied by proposals on any measures which may have to be implemented after 1990. A new survey of earnings in agriculture could then replace the present one from 1990. The basis will be a large-scale survey every 5-10 years and smaller surveys every year.

Work on the reintroduction of a revised version of the survey on the structure and breakdown of earnings in industry and services, which was interrupted in 1978, will be recommenced if the Member States are interested.

Social protection and welfare services

The structural problems created by the social security system for all Member States, as regards the elderly and the family, as well as the problems of financing unemployment, in particular long-term unemployment, make social protection data particularly important.

The aim of this work, the methodology of which was developed for Esspros, is to collect, harmonize and publish data on the expenditure and receipts of the social protection system, broken down by function, and to provide comparable data describing the situation of the recipients.

In addition, harmonized definitions and statistical data relating to the health services, education and subsidized housing budgets need to be introduced into the European system of integrated social protection statistics, with a view to the preparation of a European social budget.

Cultural statistics

The aim of this project is to establish cultural statistics. In the initial stages, the work will involve collecting existing data on cultural heritage and activities. Harmonization of the statistics may be considered if the data collected permit it.

Social statistics observatory

The aim of this project is three-fold: to observe the salient features of the social climate, to analyse them and to establish a 'pool' of information for the social partners and the policy makers.

The new social statistics yearbook, which will be produced from 1989, will cover the entire gamut of social statistics. In addition to the conventional presentation of data, it will identify the databases and specialized publications where the reader may obtain further information. Diskettes will accompany the text from 1990.

Work on a social database, containing all the social statistics available to Eurostat, will begin in 1989. The database is scheduled to come

into operation in 1991. Four access levels, of varying complexity and detail, will enable all users to obtain the information they require.

Depending on the level, on-line consultation and for the analyses themselves, down-loading on PC will be possible.

Finally, the possibility of re-examining the concept of social indicators as a means of gaining advance warning of emerging social phenomena will be considered. Indicators of this sort could, for example, warn some countries of the problems occurring in others. The data may, therefore, be incomplete and would certainly be less harmonized than the conventional statistics. Special attention will be given to the problems of safety, health, education and vocational training and equal treatment of men and women.

Dissemination of data is a particular objective of this project and special attention will be given to the demands of policy-makers and the social partners and to dissemination to preferential users.

The Social Indicators working group will have chief responsibility for this work, and the other social statistics working groups will be consulted on their specific fields.

The social aspects of the internal market

The aim of this project is to complement and reinforce the work started by the Commission on the analysis of the social implications of the realization of the internal market by the end of 1992.

The conclusions of the interdepartmental group appointed by the Commission to study this question showed that work needs to concentrate on two main points: the freedom of movement and of residence of individuals, one of the most important aspects of the single market. There have been many proposals for revised or new regulations or directives. Some of the most important are: right of residence not only for workers and their families, but also for those who are not yet or who are no longer employed; extension of social security systems to all workers, students and the non-active population; opening up of public service posts, etc. It is therefore essential to know the numbers and characteristics of the persons concerned in order to be able to assess the value of the measures proposed.

These data must be collected without delay on all migrants, not only on foreign 'workers'. The collection of existing (probably incomplete) data is scheduled for 1989. The *ad hoc* working group will be consulted on which statistics should be collected annually from 1990/1991.

In addition, the Commission of the European Communities hopes to be able to anticipate and quantify the impact of the realization of the internal market on, for example, employment and the competitiveness of enterprises and the monitoring and analysis of the effects of migrations and the more or less permanent installation of the migrants – men and women – and refugees in the host country. Observation is the more necessary since the nature of these migrations has changed considerably in recent years; in the 1960s there were large numbers of migrants, mainly from outside the Community. Now, the movement

of workers is more 'qualitative' than 'quantitative' and tends to be within the Community, so that the impact on employment, social security systems and social conditions in general is very different. This second aspect of the project will have a considerable impact on Eurostat's work load but should only occasionally place extra demands on the national institutes.

Work will begin in 1989 and will continue until 1992, though follow-up may continue after that date. It will be carried out in close cooperation with the Commission departments, in particular DG V.

Social situation of 'target groups'

The aim of this project is to supply the Commission and, in addition, the two social partners and the policy-makers with figures on the social situation of special populations for which the Commission has a specific action policy. It covers, in particular, equal treatment of men and women, migrants, young people, handicapped people and the elderly.

It also covers problems specific to European society which are sufficiently important for the Community to want to study them and be in a position to act if necessary: one example is ageing and its repercussions on the equilibrium of the social protection system, employment and the labour market as well as on the social, economic and political situation in general. Furthermore, changes in the structure of households and in the setting up and dissolution of families affect, and are affected by, the labour market, women's employment and the social structure for childminding, etc.

This project is therefore a framework whose application will develop as the social situation in the European Community and the policies it decides to introduce change.

The work will be in the form of pilot studies carried out by Eurostat. The data will be drawn primarily from Eurostat's existing statistics and will be supplemented by existing data from the national institutes.

The work will be carried out, in close collaboration with the Commission DGs, particularly DG V, by the Social Indicators working group and, for specific requirements, other social statistics working groups.

Classification of territorial units (NUTS) and localities (LOC)

In the field of regional statistics, Eurostat's first task was to promote the standard definition and application, in all Community work relating to regional statistics, of a single classification of territorial units (NUTS). The NUTS classification is the focal point for coordination of the Community system of regional statistics and is the basis for most regional analyses and activities in the Community.

Over the last few years, the need to extend the classification to localities (LOC project) has become increasingly apparent:

- so that the most detailed administrative units can be pinpointed within the NUTS regions;

- so that regional statistics can be drawn up on international movements of persons (migrations) or goods (transport);
- so that basic information can be organized for the purposes of examining sub-regional phenomena such as the environment or rural life.

Economic accounts at regional level

The regional accounts by branch (breakdown into 17 branches, at NUTS-2 level, of value added, employment and gross fixed capital formation; breakdown into 3 groups of branches, at NUTS-3 level, of value added and employment) provide an aggregative measurement of the production structure in the regions and permit the calculation of regional GDPs. A special effort will have to be made in order to have the data timely available.

The regional accounts by sector (households and general government) should provide, at least, at NUTS-2 level, the disposable income of households and the breakdown of public investment by function. The breakdown of public investment by function should allow to estimate infrastructure investments by regions. The complete regionalization of central government accounts could also help to calculate regional income, which would complement the 'regional product' figures supplied by the accounts by branch.

Social statistics at regional level

The annual calculation of the harmonized unemployment rates at NUTS-3 level (including long-term unemployment) is based on the combined results of the Community labour force survey, the data on the registered unemployed and the national estimates of the active population at NUTS-3 Level.

The unemployment data, together with the demographic statistics, the regional results of the labour force surveys and the employment data (by NACE classes and NACE-CLIO branches) provide a sizeable flow of annual data from very different sources. The integration of these data into a coherent system of regional labour statistics should point the way for the future development of social statistics at regional level, improve the quality of data and assist the analysis of flows (interregional migrations, intersectoral mobility, transition between non-activity/employment/unemployment).

Community investment grants

The statistical work consists of establishing, on the basis of internal Commission and EIB documents, a regional and functional breakdown of all the grants made each year by the Community, whether direct action in the form of grants made by the ERDF or the EAGGF Guidance Section, or loans granted by the ECSC, Euratom, the EIB or the NCI.

Regional agricultural statistics

The current statistics on land use and crop production, and the regional results of Community surveys on livestock numbers (cattle,

pigs, sheep) and the structure of agricultural holdings, together with the regional agricultural accounts, constitute a coherent body of information providing an overall view of agriculture in each region.

The regional agricultural accounts provide the data needed to evaluate regional agricultural income (values added, depreciation, wages, rents, interest) and in addition, thanks to a detailed breakdown of final production, enable the concentration of products and specializations in each region to be measured. The regional indicators of agricultural income can only be of use if data can be made available more quickly and certain regionalization methods are improved. This includes indicators at NUTS-3 level which are essential to pursue the rural development objective in the context of the reform of the structural funds.

Other regional statistics (transport, environment, energy, etc.)

The three main sets of Community regional statistics are the regional economic accounts and regional social and agricultural statistics. However, the regional dimension of other statistical fields, already in existence or being developed, is also of importance, if not essential, e.g. transport (Community surveys on road, rail and inland waterways transport measure the interregional flow of goods), or the environment, energy or tourism.

In these fields, it will be important to ensure that the regional classification used is compatible with the NUTS.

Regio database

For the Commission departments responsible for the management or coordination of the structural Funds, Regio is the main pool of comparable regional statistics for all the regions of the Community.

Work will have to be continued. In the future efforts have to be made in the cooperation with the users of the database, to improve consultation procedures. This includes statistical processing. All the regional data from the Community surveys (labour force, structure of agricultural holdings, transport) should be available on the same medium as the regional database.

Statistics on agriculture, fisheries and the environment

Background

The Community system of agricultural statistics is better developed than many areas due to the particular developments of CAP within the various common policies. A large part of the statistical programme for the next four years is the continued running of already well functioning systems. There are, however, new policy needs to be met and new technical opportunities to be taken advantage of. Agricultural statistics will more and more be affected by statistical developments in other areas and its role and methods need to be reviewed. The

contribution of the agricultural statistics system to problems outside those traditionally regarded as agricultural will grow.

To meet the needs for data on the physical and economic production structure of agriculture, on agricultural outputs and their use and on the relationship of the agricultural sector with the rest of the economy, special systems of agricultural statistics have been set up. This is for technical reasons or on grounds of efficient data collection. These 'specialist' agricultural statistics have of course to be compatible with agricultural aspects of other data sources and to contribute to a general system of economic statistics.

Development

The main body of Community agricultural statistics consists of five broad blocks of work. The main developments planned for each of these blocks of work are as follows:

- (i) on agricultural structures the implementation of the Eurofarm project and the follow up of recent Council Decisions (e.g. set aside);
- (ii) on means of production to explore the potential of remote sensing for assessing land use;
- (iii) on production to improve the harvest forecast and early warning system and to cover the crop estimates by legal instruments;
- (iv) on prices and accounts to extend the economic accounts of agriculture in particular to cover the income of agricultural households from outside agriculture and to get regional figures;
- (v) on the use of agricultural production to try to develop useful statistics on the agro-food industry.

A. Main areas of work

The various activities and development projects in each of these five headings are described below:

1. Agricultural structures

Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings

The objective is to obtain information at regular intervals on the structural characteristics of agricultural holdings in the Community, in order to study trends. Data are stored in the FSSRS database. Surveys will be carried out by the Member States in 1989-90, 1993, 1995 and 1997. They will be governed by a binding legal framework, and the Community will make a financial contribution towards the work. Member States will transmit individual data in compliance with Community legislation. These data will then be put to use in the framework of the Eurofarm project.

Eurofarm

Eurostat has to prepare a new database under the name 'Eurofarm', the purpose of which is to achieve more flexibility for *ad hoc* analysis

purposes and to reduce significantly the time needed to process data and make them available to users. Eurofarm will contain a database for individual data (BDI) covered by confidentiality and a database for tabulations (BDT) which is public. The individual data by agricultural holding which are held in the BDI will permit more detailed analysis as well as a more flexible presentation of results in response to requests. The sources of data for Eurofarm will be Community surveys of agricultural holdings, general surveys and specific surveys as those on orchards and wine growing.

Surveys of vineyards

For the purpose of the wine market regulation, the general arrangements are large-scale surveys with 10-year intervals and yearly assessments on modification of areas invested in vineyards for wine production. The second large-scale survey is scheduled for 1989. Supplementary information will be assessed by the vineyard register to be compiled by Member States, under the auspices of DG VI 'Agriculture' and with a financial contribution from the Commission.

2. Means of production

Agricultural land use

The data are the responsibility of the Member States and originate from their programmes of work. Methods and definitions are harmonized by Eurostat. In due course new sources of information could be added by using remote sensing.

Forestry statistics

Eurostat has a minimum number of harmonized data on wooded areas in the Community. To a certain degree, this information can be progressively supplemented by applying remote sensing to land use statistics – alerts, protection, estimates. As far as the economic aspects of forestry are concerned, Eurostat considers that it is necessary to continue collecting from national sources harmonized forestry statistics which are comparable at Community level and which may serve as a basis for the coordination of the forestry policies of the Member States as well as for the implementation of Community actions and forestry programmes. As done in the past, Eurostat will carry out this work in close cooperation with the appropriate Working Party of the Agricultural Statistics Committee and with the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forestry Economics and Statistics in Geneva. However, Eurostat's activity in this area will not be increased unless new priorities are set by the Commission and the Council.

Fruit tree surveys

Harmonized and synchronized surveys provide the Commission with detailed information on the production potential of certain fruit tree species and allow it to forecast trends. Surveys are carried out every five years (the next ones will be in 1992) by the Member States under

the terms of a Council directive. The information is updated regularly on the basis of annual data on plantations and clearings.

Livestock surveys

A programme of regular Community surveys provides information on numbers of live animals, and so renewal potential and meat/milk production potential: two surveys of bovine animals (June, December), three pig surveys (April, August, December), one survey of sheep and goats (December). Eurostat collects these data on the basis of legislation which is fully binding on the national authorities, which are also required to prepare forecasts.

Animal feed

Eurostat regularly compiles a balance sheet of resources and uses of animal feed, in order to have available an accurate analysis of market in particular of manioc and cereal substitutes.

The Member States provide additional data to complement the current statistics available elsewhere. The complete information is accessible through a database; the results are presented and discussed with the organizations concerned and the members of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Feedingstuffs.

3. Agricultural production

Crop products, production and balance sheets

This activity involves the management of current crop production statistics (areas, yields and harvested production). Eurostat collects data according to harmonized concepts and organizes processing and dissemination. Legal instruments will be prepared covering the provision of crop estimates starting with cereals. Production statistics are supplemented by supply balance sheet statistics showing the situation of agricultural markets in the Community of Twelve, in the context of the large market. The national statistical institutes are responsible for collecting and transmitting data. Improved data may in due course become available as a result of the possibilities offered by remote sensing.

Animal products, production and balance sheets

Current statistics on animal production are plentiful: weekly for butter and milk powder production, monthly for meat, milk and milk products, eggs placed in hatcheries and broilers and laying hens placed, annual for all types of animal production, three-yearly for the structure and activities of dairies. Furthermore, supply balance sheets by product or group of products provide information on the balance of the main markets by calendar year.

Harvest forecasts and agricultural early warning system

Eurostat administers a system for the analysis of meteorological data as crop yield indicators, combined with a rapid estimate of land sown

in the Member States. Each month a multi-variable analysis allows exceptional meteorological conditions to be detected and their probable effects on yields assessed. The raw data from this process are submitted every month to national experts for their comments and observations, which are then taken into account in the harvest forecasts for DG VI 'Agriculture'. This exercise could eventually require data processing links to be developed between the various partners, at major crop-growing area level, national level and Community level, so that synopses can be compiled.

Economic accounts for agriculture

The objective is to provide harmonized macroeconomic data on production (broken down by products), intermediate consumption, value added, agricultural income and fixed capital formation in agriculture as well as an analysis of the development of productivity in agriculture.

The main efforts will be directed at:

- collecting annual data from the 12 Member States;
- accelerating the updating of results as well as improving the harmonization of data;
- integrating Spain and Portugal into the economic accounts for agriculture;
- developing instructions for the automatic calculation of data in Cronos (ECU and PPS);
- storing data in Cronos for monitoring additional income indicators;
- producing calculations related to the development of productivity in agriculture and division of the productivity gains among the various agents (farmers, customers, suppliers, State, banks and paid workers);
- preparing an annual publication 'Economic accounts for agriculture' containing updated data and graphics.

Sectoral income index

Annually Eurostat provides forecasts of changes in agricultural income in the Member States and in the Community as a whole for the current year. The figures are based on updated estimates produced by the national agencies on the price, volume and value changes in the factors which determine agricultural income, taking as a basis the Economic accounts for agriculture. The evolution of income is analysed by Eurostat and the results, including tables and graphics, are published regularly for the annual price fixing exercise.

The activities are concentrated on improving the income indicators system (development of a cash flow indicator), income analysis methods used and the annual income report.

Total income of agricultural households

In the context of the changing statistical requirements of the common agricultural policy, the intention is to develop a macroeconomic income indicator for the total income of agricultural households (TIAH), using a harmonized methodology, in order to: (i) monitor the

year-to-year changes in the TIAH in Member States, (ii) monitor the changing composition of income, (iii) enable comparisons to be made in the development of TIAH with those of other socio-professional groups and (iv) enable comparisons to be made between the absolute incomes of farmers and other socio-professional groups.

The work is concentrated on:

- working out the methodology and preparing a manual;
- financial assistance in the launch phase of the project;
- collecting figures, storing them in Cronos and analysing the results.

SPEL model

This model (Sectoral production and income model for agriculture in the Community) is based on a systematically structured data matrix for the Community agricultural sector as a whole, with comparable data for individual Member States. It was developed for the following tasks:

- *ex post* analysis of sectoral developments;
- short-term and medium-term forecasts of agricultural income development;
- simulation of the effect of alternative agricultural policies;
- verification of the consistency of Eurostat's agricultural statistics.

The main effort will be directed at:

- integrating Spain and Portugal;
- implementing the model on the Community's computer;
- developing an improved version of the whole SPEL system (version B);
- developing a medium-term forecasting and simulation system (MFSS).

The model has to be regularly updated and used in collaboration with DG VI.

Agricultural price statistics

The Community's agricultural price statistics are based on voluntary agreements with the Member States. They comprise two groups of time series which are stored in the PRAG domain of the Cronos database: (i) absolute agricultural prices and (ii) EC agricultural price indices (output and input).

The absolute agricultural prices cover monthly and annual selling prices of crop and animal products and purchase prices of the means of agricultural production. They are expressed in national currency, ecu and PPS. The EC agricultural price indices are divided into: (i) the EC index of producer prices of agricultural products and (ii) the EC index of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production. They are provided in nominal and real (deflated) series.

This activity comprises: the collection and making available of harmonized time series, the integration of Spain and Portugal into the Community system, the ongoing development of the methodology, the rebasing of the indices every five years, the production of

forecasts of the price indices to be used for the Commission's annual price fixing exercise.

4. Utilization of agricultural production

Agro-food industry statistics

The objective is to establish a coherent system of statistics covering the agro-food industry production chain for agricultural products.

Using, as far as possible, sources which exist at present targets in this sector are as follows:

- statistics on the structure of production systems in the agro-industrial sector;
- quantity data on agro-industrial products, in the form of balance sheets;
- preparation of production chains with figures showing the various uses of agricultural products;
- development of statistics in terms of value, to be used mainly for preparing detailed input-output tables by sector.

The following stages are planned:

- development, with the help of studies and cooperation with the Member States (working parties), of definitions, fields to be covered, nomenclatures, statistical tables and production sequences for the purposes of quantity and structure statistics (1989);
- compilation of regular statistics with the help of the authorities in the Member States (1990-91);
- development of a dissemination system, e.g. a database (1989-91);
- study of value statistics (towards 1992).

Other aspects of the programme

A further activity of a more general nature which forms part of the work on agricultural statistics is

Assistance with plans for the restructuring of the system of agricultural statistics in the Member States

The objective is to help certain Member States to set up a permanent system of agricultural statistics to provide at least the compulsory data required by the Commission. A regional technical and administrative infrastructure will be created or replaced as necessary. This will allow the harmonized programme of statistical surveys at agricultural holdings level to be carried out, using the sampling frame. A specific plan for each Member State concerned being assisted in this way sets out the action to be taken, at the national level. A timetable has been established in each case, and the way the Community and the correspondent national contribution is spent is regularly monitored by the Commission.

Other activities contributing information directly on agriculture are volume of work in agriculture and the two yearly survey of the

earnings of agricultural workers and its possible successor. These are discussed under social statistics.

Fishery statistics

Eurostat's work in fishery statistics involves close collaboration with Member States' statistical services in the Working Group on Fishery Statistics and is set in an existing framework of international agreements. The programme of fishery statistics involves three projects covering catches, landings and the fishing fleet.

Statistics on catches of fish

For figures of the catches of fish broken down by variety of fish and by fishing region, Eurostat will continue the collection and processing of data on Statlant questionnaires, updating of the relevant database and publication of the 'Fishery statistics'. These Statlant questionnaires, coordinated through the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, are completed by Member States annually within six months of the end of the calendar year covered and a copy provided to Eurostat. The work programme also includes collaboration with international agencies on harmonized definitions and concepts (including an EC nomenclature) and development of the questionnaires. Numerous agencies are involved: FAO, ICES, NAFO, ICSEAF, ICCAT, YCFM, CCAMLR.

Statistics on landings of fishery products

For landings of fishery products, new Community legislation is being developed under which regular monthly data will be provided by Member States.

Fishing fleet statistics

For fishing fleet statistics Eurostat will develop a system to extract annual data from an administrative register being built up by the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries. As soon as this system is functioning, Eurostat will cease to request statistical returns from Member States to keep up-to-date the currently existing statistical database.

Environment

The Community programme of environmental statistics is new. A first phase has been the assembly of existing statistics available at Eurostat. This work will continue but will be subsumed in new specific projects:

Physical data on the environment

The establishment of a logical system of statistics on the physical aspects of the environment has been launched. The plan of action provides for:

- an inventory of sources at Community, national and international level,

- the addition of new sources required for environmental policy and the harmonization of relevant data.

Attention will be given to (a) the possible advantages of using new technologies such as remote sensing for the provision of environmental data (b) the re-use for statistics of data provided in compliance with Community directives, (c) matching data for regions of environmental significance to the usual statistical regions.

There will be a significant work load for the Member States, involving, in some cases the development of new statistical sources. The main development phase is envisaged for 1989-1991 with a continuing maintenance (and further developments) thereafter.

This project involves collaboration with international organizations: in particular, ECE (Geneva) and OECD. Community legislation is envisaged as is a financial contribution to Member States.

Economic data on the environment

The object is to pinpoint the economic data which are linked to Community environmental policies, harmonizing them and ensuring their accuracy.

The project will ensure that financial and employment data required for the Community environmental policies are available, statistically valid and comparable and that the data collection techniques required are the most efficient and cost effective. Studies of a framework for economic statistics ('environmental accounts') are in hand and will lead to proposals for data collection.

This work which is relatively new to the majority of Member States is being built up in such a way that developments, while being carried out in the long term, will take place in an effective and harmonized fashion and will yield useful results at an early stage. The main development phase is envisaged for 1989-1992 with continuing maintenance (and further developments) thereafter. The work programme involves:

- (i) completion of a framework within which a Community programme of economic statistics related to the environment may be installed progressively (1989 onwards);
- (ii) identification and development of new sources of data for economic statistics related to the environment;
- (iii) continuation of work, in collaboration with international bodies (ECE, OECD, World Bank, UNEP), on definitions and classifications with particular reference to economic data. (1989-1992) throughout the four years covered by the programme;
- (iv) data collection: first phase 1989, extension and development 1989-1992.

There will be a significant work load for the Member States, involving, in most cases the development of new statistical sources. The fact that few Member States have developed systems in this area but most have plans for work on these topics provides an ideal climate for harmonized progress. During the period covered by the statistical programme it may be necessary to establish a legal basis and fix the level of a Community contribution for the collection of data.

Survey of municipalities

This project will establish a database of environmental data relating to small local government areas. This level of detail is needed because of the diversity of conditions within Community countries. Many data are compiled in the Member States at the 'commune' (NUTS-5) level (e.g. population size and composition). Other data are produced in the course of local administration; some are already centralized by statistical services or ministries, others not. It is proposed to commence with a study of the data available and relevant at this level and to coordinate data collection with the parallel development of the Corine-Reseau database. This presupposes identification by Eurostat of the variables useful to the Commission and the Member States and a decision on the best way to obtain the data. This will probably involve a Community survey and so decisions on the units to be surveyed, the legal basis and on the EC's financial contribution. Preparatory work is expected to last three years with the reference period for data collection only towards the end of the programme period.

Database Corine-Reseau

Execution of the Commission's Corine programme requires a database with statistical and geographic capabilities. Eurostat is co-leader of this major computing project. The project will ensure that data (statistical and non-statistical) relating to the environment are stored in an efficient fashion permitting ready access to users together with appropriate tools for analysis. This project will have little direct impact on Member States so far as development is concerned. When running, the database will allow access by Member States to statistical and geographic information on the environment.

The programme of environmental statistics is being developed in close collaboration with Member States' statistical services in the Eurostat working group on environment statistics.

Remote sensing and statistics – Applications in agriculture

The Commission has submitted to the Council a 10-year research and development programme on the uses of remote sensing for agricultural statistics. This work should also benefit statistics on land use and land (and sea) coverage throughout the Community, compiled as part of Community environmental policy. The 1989-92 statistical programme will include studies of semi-operational projects covering all aspects of combining remote sensing with conventional sources and information.

The Member States will participate in 'ground-truth' surveys, and the division of responsibilities for compiling statistics (decentralization towards the Member States or centralization within the Commission) will be decided in the light of the research programme results. In due course a legal basis and a Community contribution may be necessary, with far-reaching implications on the data-processing side.

Activities and projects of a statistical nature in other Commission Directorates-General

Some tasks of a statistical nature are the responsibility of Commission departments other than Eurostat.

Eurostat is regularly consulted on how these tasks fit in with its own work. Almost exclusively these are activities or projects for which the Commission departments turn to bodies (government departments or private bodies) outside the national statistics system for collecting data in the Member States.

These activities are classed below by Directorate-General. Eurostat considers that while this inventory is perhaps not exhaustive it constitutes a first step towards incorporating all the Commission's work of a statistical nature in a coherent programme.

Statistics under the responsibility of other Commission services

Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

Business survey on enterprises and households

The purpose of this survey is to collect information quickly on the opinions of companies and households on the economic situation and prospects. Data are collected monthly, sent to the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, discussed by the Group of Experts on 'Business surveys' and published monthly.

Harmonized database on company accounts (BACH)

This involves the collecting, standardizing and structuring of approved company accounts, by sector and size, for eight Member States (D, F, I, UK, B, NL, P and E) plus the US and Japan. These data meet a specific need of the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs for detailed and comparable economic and financial information on business. These data are stored in a database and cover the period 1971-1986. Data are supplied by the company accounts departments of the Central Banks of the Member States. They are discussed in the 'Comité Européen de Concertation des Centrales de Bilan' (a committee for the coordination of company accounts departments).

Exchange rates

This activity comprises the daily calculation and immediate publication of the ecu exchange rates and of variations in exchange rates.

The purpose is to make available to users a set of data on the ecu exchange rate, which it is the responsibility of the Commission to

calculate, and on exchange rates and forward rates, ECU-CIRR, stock market indices, etc. These data are stored in a database and disseminated daily.

Directorate-General for Agriculture

Market prices of farm products

This involves the rapid collection of prices of products and given qualities of products from representative markets in the Member States. This information is used for the automatic triggering of measures relating to the common organization of the markets. The data are compiled for daily, weekly and monthly periods and are collected by bodies outside the statistical system.

Farm accountancy data network (FADN)

This involves the collection of microeconomic data from a sample of 44 000 holdings representing farm business in the Community. The aim is to provide a source of detailed information on the economic situation of farms from which various analyses can be made. FADN is used regularly in the preparation of decisions relating to new measures and also for the day-to-day management of the CAP. For operating this project each Member State receives a contribution of ECU 95 per farm return. The data are examined by the FADN Committee and disseminated in summary form in the FADN database. The legal basis for this activity is Council regulation (EEC) No 79/65 and two Commission regulations, (EEC) Nos 1859/82 and 1915/83.

External trade in certain agricultural products

This involves the rapid communication of data on external trade in certain sensitive agricultural products for day-to-day management of the common organization of the markets. The data, covering 10-day and monthly periods, are stored in a database operated jointly by Eurostat and DG VI. The legal basis is Commission regulation (EEC) No 3601/82.

Vineyard register

This involves the collection of data on wine-growing by holding or grape processor as appropriate (data on areas under vines, returns on production and oenological practices, premiums and aid received, etc.). The aim is to permit sound management of the wine-growing sector and to collect reliable data for statistical purposes. This project was begun in 1987 and will extend over a maximum period of six years except in the case of Portugal, for which there is provision for an extension. There is provision for aid to the Member States of the order of 50% of the costs of setting up the register, including the necessary investment in data-processing installations. The legal basis is Council regulations (EEC) Nos 2392/86 and 649/87.

Register of olive cultivation

This involves collecting data on the areas under olives, the total number of olive trees, the identity of the farmers and details of the trees such as age, variety and system of cultivation. The aim of this project is to provide better information on the production potential of olives and olive oil in the Community and to improve the operation of the Community aid arrangements. This project has been completed for France; it is nearing completion for Italy, should begin in 1989 in Spain and still has to be specified for Greece and Portugal. Provision has been made for indirect funding in the form of a deduction from the aid given to producers by the Member States concerned. The legal basis is Council regulation (EEC) 154/75.

Directorate-General for Transport

Transport market observation system

The development of a Community transport policy, and more specifically the creation of a single market for 1992, requires a monitoring of the goods transport market by road, rail and inland waterways between the Member States. The objective of this project is to analyse data on goods movements by road, rail and inland waterways relative to tonnage flows, capacity, prices, cost, financial situation and opinions on these subjects and to publish the results as soon as possible. Forecasts with horizons of one to five years are also undertaken. The tonnage data are collected from statistical directives (78/546, 80/1177 and 80/1119); the trade statistics are broken down by mode of transports from Regulation 2954/85. The legal base is the Council Resolution 1986/...

Road haulage with certain non-member States

The objective of this project is to monitor the flow of goods (and if possible the price charges for the transport of goods by road) between the Community and certain non-member States. Reports concerning data for 1981 to 1984 covered Eastern Bloc. Report for 1985 and for 1986 extended to Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. Data are gathered from miscellaneous national statistical publications and disseminated in an annual report to the Council (Confidential).

Community quota statistics

The objective of this project is to monitor the use (tonnes carried, tonne-kilometres achieved) of Community quota permits according to the nationality of haulier. These permits allow hauliers to make 'cross-trade' journeys between two other Member States as well as bilateral journeys with another Member State. The purpose is also to assess the share of road haulage performed under Community quota. The information is supplied by road hauliers and compiled by Member States into quarterly returns. This project will terminate with the completion of the internal market in 1993. The legal base is the Council regulation 3164/76.

Activities of carriers in cargo liner traffic

The objective of this project is to monitor the competition between Member States liner companies and third country companies in the liner trades. The objective is to monitor the competitive position of Member States liner companies (information about services operated, tonnage transported, freight rates). The first three reports (confidential) covered only East Africa and Central America trade for the period 1979 to 1981. The period 1982-1985 is covered by the fourth and fifth report and also covers the Far East area of operation. Information is provided on liner services operated, goods transported, freight rates by Member States on an irregular basis and supplemented with data from various other sources and supported by documentary evidence. Every two years a confidential report is transmitted to the Council. Several Council decisions support this project.

Transport infrastructure costing

The statistical objective is the collection of annual expenditure and utilization data by type of road, etc., type of vehicle etc. Information is supplied by the Member States with annual returns based on administrative information for expenditure and national surveys for utilization. The legal base is Council regulation 1108/70/EEC.

Railway economic situation

The objective of this activity is to present the accounts and other operating characteristics of the railways in a standard form so as to permit economic comparisons to record the State aids given to railway companies. Data are collected through railway companies and Member State administrations and analysed for the preparation of a biennial report to Council on progress in the field of railway accounting and economic situation. The legal base is the Council decision 75/327/EEC.

Directorate-General for Development

DAC questionnaire – disbursement and commitments of official and private flows

The objective of this activity is to inform DAC – Development Assistance Committee – of the OECD of the financing decisions and disbursements concerning development aid to developing countries managed by the Commission of the EC and by the European Investment Bank. A report is delivered mid-May of each year to the OECD.

Directorate-General for Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety

Corine

Corine is an experimental project for collecting, coordinating, and harmonizing information on the state of the environment in and the natural resources of the Community. The information provided by

Corine is used directly for purposes of Community environmental policy and lays the foundation for an information system on the state of the environment of the Community. The project will be completed in 1989 but a follow-on project is likely.

Directorate-General for Science, Research and Development

Hermes macroeconomic model (forecasts)

The aim of this project is the systematic collection of data in an acceptable format for the Hermes model. It involves obtaining inputs concerning the following sectors: agriculture, energy, intermediate goods, consumer goods, investment goods, construction and public buildings, transport and telecommunications, market and non-market services.

Directorate-General of Energy

Imports of crude oil

The statistical objective is to provide an early report on imports of crude oil by Member States. The most important details are the prices paid (CIF and FOB) per barrel of crude oil, the quantities and the source of the crude. A monthly report on imports of crude oil by Member States by sources is sent by the Commission to the Member States and is discussed with them on a regular basis.

Emergency oil stocks

The purpose of this project is to monitor levels of oil stocks in the Member States of the Community, in view of the obligation to hold 90 days' stocks at the consumption rate for the previous year imposed by the Council directive. The Member States provide the basic monthly statistical information on oil stock levels at the end of the month.

Solid fuel in the Community

The purpose of this project is to collect the most up-to-date statistical data on the solid fuels market and estimates for the following year. The Member States (the Ministries concerned) are required to draw up summary returns containing this information. Three reports per annum, in March, September and December, are drawn up by the Directorate-General for Energy and sent to the Member States.

Investment in the electricity sector

The statistical objective is to obtain information on electricity production plants (categories included thermal plant of 200 mW unit size and over, hydro plant of 50 mW and over and, high voltage lines and cables) planned over the next five years and beyond, in construction, and commissioned in the past year. Information relates to type, size and relevant dates of investment projects in electricity production

plant. Data will be stored in a new database – PISE – expected to be in the Commission in 1989. Information will be used for forecasting and modelling activation. A special aspect is the receipt of the maximum forward indication, even if not currently well defined. Information is forwarded by the Member States by 15 February each year. The legal bases are Council regulation 72/1056/EEC and 76/1215/EEC.

Electricity database

The objective of this activity is to list the existing power stations, in construction and in project, in the EC countries.

Directorate-General for Coordination of Structural Instruments

Management system for the integrated Mediterranean programmes

The objective of this activity is to monitor the implementation of the integrated Mediterranean programmes from a financial point of view (commitments-payments/estimation-actual). Data are represented by the financial information at the IMP measure level.

Impact evaluation system of structural interventions

The objective of this project, for which the pilot study is currently finished, is the creation of an information and statistical analysis system for the structural interventions, in connection with the management system of the Funds: monitoring of Community support frameworks, evaluation of structural interventions.

IFC database (Instruments Financiers Communautaires)

IFC database is a documentary database providing a description for projects and programmes benefiting from the participation of EC funds since 1981. The statistical objective of this project is:

- to centralize and standardize information, diverse in format and from a variety of sources;
- to enable the analysis of funding activities by project/programmes, Member State, region (NUTS), activity sector (NACE) and period;
- to provide a source for: (1) monitoring and evaluation applications in the context of the reform of the structural Funds; (2) More sophisticated reporting applications enabling greater manipulation of data and the production of diagrams and thematic maps. Other important objectives exist (non-statistical);
- briefings to interested parties (MEPs, Commissioners, regional authorities, non-governmental organizations, journalists) regarding a given region or other geographical area or topic: Reports, listings.

The first phase of development of this project was scheduled to be put into production in October 1988. The second phase was scheduled for mid-1989.

Information and dissemination

Development of general computer services

The general computer services are based on a coordinated set of projects designed to cover the needs which are commonly observed in the fields of the processing and dissemination of statistical information. Among the various developments which are taking place, particular priority will be given to implementing the Statel (Statistiques Télétransmissions), Stanorm (Statistiques Normalisation) and ADMDOC (Administration des Documents) programmes.

Statel is designed to construct the architecture for electronic data exchange between Eurostat and the institutions it works with in the Member States, mainly the national statistical offices.

Stanorm is for studying the standardization of data exchange between various types of data-processing environments. It benefits from spin-offs of the standardization work carried out by the various working parties, such as the Edifact Board, and uses the standards based on markup techniques (SGML, Formex, etc.) for the exchange of data to be published or disseminated.

As part of the general provisions adopted by the Commission on document administration, ADMDOC offers a system for the automatic management of documents based on the most up-to-date office-automation technology, using scanners, digital optical discs and software for optical character recognition.

Automated transmission procedures, standardization and better access to information make for greater efficiency and reliability in the collection and dissemination of information and, consequently, increased productivity in the statistical systems in the different sectors.

A general tool for validating and checking statistical data, at present under study, will enable us to make some progress on rationalization at the processing stage.

Collection infrastructure: Stadium

The purpose of the Stadium project (Statistical Data Interchange Universal Monitor) is to provide a centre for the collection of statistical data at Eurostat.

Eurostat receives statistical data from a large number of statistical offices in the member countries. At present these data are transmitted mainly on magnetic tape (approximately 10 000 consignments per year). The volume of data received is approximately 3 000 million characters per year, of which 20 million are on hard copy.

At present, each domain in Eurostat has its own administrative and technical procedures for collecting data. These procedures are supported by various computer environments and, in most cases, Eurostat is not responsible for operating them.

By rationalizing the information flows and providing a specialist infrastructure for Eurostat, the Stadium project considerably increases the efficiency of the collecting operations while giving greater flexibility in accommodating the statistical applications requirements and the needs of the providers of data.

For some of the above objectives the Stadium project will benefit from the results obtained in the standardization and remote transmission of statistical information.

The first prototype should be ready at the end of 1988. The system will be set up in stages for completion by mid-1990.

Dissemination infrastructure: Strings

The aim of the Strings project (Statistical report integrated generation service) is to construct an architecture for the production and dissemination of statistical information through statistical reports.

The statistical reports may take such different forms as regular or occasional publications, pages in the electronic distribution services, or structured extracts of information from dissemination databases.

The content of the statistical report is made up of a structured set of textual components (analysis, comments, methodological notes), tables (numerical information) and graphics.

The aim of the Strings project is to make it easier to incorporate these different components into a variegated and wide-spread computer environment such as that of Eurostat.

The project therefore has three main aims – increased efficiency, improved quality and more dissemination facilities.

Work on this project falls into two categories – a general analysis of how the statistical reports are drawn up and disseminated, and trials of different electronic publishing systems which are already on the market. Through systematic analysis a methodology has been established for producing Eurostat's publications, and for drawing up guidelines for the choice of data-processing and organizational architecture for the project. Initially, the trial phase will permit the production of regular publications. At a later stage these 'electronic' reports can be exchanged at different stages of preparation with other specialist units concerned, such as the Office for Official Publications, printers, and database hosts.

Exploring new computer methods for statistics

The very rapid pace of development in computer systems will have several repercussions on the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data. The prospects opened up by the development of expert systems – particularly for statistical analysis – the use of remote sensing for collecting data, the more general use of new media, such as optical discs, for storing and disseminating information and the work on standardizing statistical messages for electronic transmission call for an experimental environment for testing the new

products and adapting them to the requirements of Eurostat, as well as permanent monitoring.

This work calls for close collaboration with research organizations, i.e. universities, specialist firms and other bodies – and active participation in the Commission's programmes (Insis and Tedis), while meetings between specialist working parties and the Member States will ensure cooperation with the national statistical offices, which is essential for integrating the systems.

Relations with Member States and international organizations on computerization

Eurostat would like to cooperate more closely with the national statistical offices with a view to rationalizing developments and integrating the various services.

Eurostat will take an active part in work of a general nature in the fields of computerized statistics research, and communications with the other international bodies will be stepped up.

Assistance and development of sectoral computer applications

Local computer applications are on the increase. This more general use of computers, together with the diversity of the hardware and software used calls for methodological rules and standards and calls for a high level of technical assistance and consultancy services.

Operation of data-processing infrastructure

The computer environment, both hardware and software, for the work of collecting, processing and disseminating statistical information, calls for short-, medium- and long-term management which, besides providing a high level of efficiency, must ensure integration with both the EEC's architecture and existing infrastructures in the Member States.

Dissemination policy for statistical data

Eurostat will analyse in more detail the statistical needs of the different users with a view to devising and implementing a more targeted dissemination policy.

The major thrusts will be to construct a new architecture for statistical databases as a function of the types of bases (production, reference and dissemination), to rationalize the programme and content of publications, to use modern media and dissemination systems for them, and to step up promotion, publicity and information on data.

Public relations

The aim is to maintain effective links and active cooperation with Eurostat's institutional partners, in order to set up a communication network between Eurostat and its users so that information can be exchanged on products and requirements.

General digest

The aim is to provide information with a high value-added content on all Eurostat's fields of activity, in particular by:

- devising and producing general publications on short- and long-term statistics;
- considering the possibility of producing general studies tailored to the general objectives of the Commission (*ad hoc* studies);
- selecting the content of databases for wide dissemination.

Public database administration

Day to day operational management of Eurostat reference database infrastructure and of the update of dissemination database environments. This work is gradually being adapted to accommodate the revised database architecture for Eurostat.

Documentation of public databases

The management and update on an ongoing basis of the documentation of the contents of Eurostat publicly available data on both electronic and paper media.

This activity is being restructured to extend the coverage of data being documented, orientate such documentation more and more towards electronic data as a primary vehicle and create specific links between data and its documentation. In addition the requirements of the reference databases under the revised Eurostat database architecture are being evaluated.

The documentation extensions for existing databases should be complete by mid-1989. In addition a global schema for the description of Eurostat reference environments will be complete by start 1989. The information will then proceed progressively with the transfer of reference data into the new informatic product environments.

Data collection management

Operational management of data capture activities for Eurostat production systems. This currently covers machine data capture organization and reception of certain data on magnetic media.

The activities in this area are linked to the progressive delivery of the facilities envisaged within the Eurostat 'Stadium' project. A survey and analysis of incoming data flow for Eurostat should be completed by 1989.

Data dissemination management

Ongoing activities in relation to the distribution of Eurostat data on a variety of support media in the form of standard products. These activities cover the printing of publications (including the implementation of desk-top publishing facilities) the generation of data for servers and the provision of diskettes for internal and external use. The use of CD-ROM is currently under review. The areas of dissemination content and financial control are also covered.

Installation of new dissemination products

Implementation of a new architecture for Eurostat data dissemination together with its associate organizational infrastructure. This includes the definition of targeted client profiles (on the basis of a user needs survey already completed), user requirements definition, organizational and infrastructure constraints evaluation and general project management by Eurostat. The specific project planning is included for each sub-project under the appropriate activity sheet.

Wide dissemination databases ('Eurocron')

Within the overall project this activity concerns the specification and management of facilities for easy access to specific socio-economic indicators chosen by Eurostat as presenting an overview of European Community activities and interests. Both videotex and interactive environments are envisaged with appropriate provision of user-friendly interfaces and data descriptions.

A prototype system for internal evaluation is currently working. Subsequent to decisions on technical options a first version production system should be available by end 1988.

Access to statistical databases (ABIS)

The objectives are to provide a set of homogeneous interfaces and procedures to enable users to find, extract and recover detailed data from the mass available in Eurostat databases. The primary activities are one of description and indexing (what data and where) and retrieval (how). A first definition of the detailed requirements is currently under technical evaluation ; descriptive and index work is currently under way.

Brussels data shop

The Brussels data shop assists the staff of the Commission and other Community institutions and also external bodies in Brussels (universities, embassies, businesses, the press, etc.) in locating statistical information, interpreting it at the methodological level and, if necessary, reprocessing it as required.

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