

12th Meeting of the

**Inter secretariat Working Group
on Price Statistics
(IWGPS)**

5 May 2011

Wellington, New Zealand

Minutes

Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

12th Meeting, 5 May 2011, at 12.15

InterContinental Hotel, Wellington

Minutes

Draft Version 04 January 2012

Attendance

Institutional members

- Roberto Barcellan Eurostat - Chairman
- Mick Silver International Monetary Fund
- Valentina Stoevska International Labour Organisation

Excused: UNECE, OECD, World Bank.

Invited participants

- Kirsten Balling Statistics Denmark
- Jan de Haan Statistics Netherlands
- Erwin Diewert University of British Columbia, Canada and University
of new South Wales, Australia
- David Fenwick Consultant, United Kingdom
- Daniel Griffiths Statistics New Zealand, Ottawa Group
- Jan Walschots Eurostat

1. Approval of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without any changes (see Annex I). A written contribution – e-mail - from Paul Schreyer (OECD) on (see 6(a) below) was distributed to the participants.

2. Report to UNSC in February 2011, and updated ToR

The Chair briefly informed the participants on the Report of the IWGPS to the UN Statistical Commission, as presented to the 42nd session of the UNSC in February 2011 ([Report of the IWGPS to the UNSC](#)) and on its relevant parts.

Action points: ---.

3. Progress of the Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices and arrangements for the IWGPS to sign-off the handbook

Eurostat informed the IWGPS members about the progress on the compilation of the Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices. The Handbook has been almost finalised taking into account the comments provided following the release of the final draft version on the website of Eurostat and the outcome of the dedicated seminar organised by Statistics Netherlands in February 2011. The next steps towards the finalization are to incorporate the comments provided during the meeting of the Ottawa Group in May 2011 and the suggestions made in relation to the released draft final version on the website of Eurostat. The authors will provide Eurostat with the final version by end May 2011. Eurostat will proceed with the validation of the final draft during autumn and the electronic version of the Handbook should be finalised by end 2011. Eurostat will explore the possibility to release a hardcover paper version of the Handbook (*meanwhile Eurostat checked this possibility and the paper version of the Handbook will be printed in 2012*).

The IWGPS agreed to circulate the final version of the Handbook to the IWGPS members for final endorsement. The IWGPS agreed also to add a preface to the Handbook for signature of the different IWGPS organizations (following the same approach implemented for the CPI Manual, the XMPI Manual and the PPI Manual). Eurostat will circulate a proposal to the IWGPS members.

Action points:

- Eurostat to circulate the final version of the Handbook to the IWGPS for endorsement.
- Eurostat to circulate a draft preface for the Handbook to be signed by the representatives of the different IWGPS organizations.

4. Updates concerning the existing international manuals and handbooks: Supplementary Handbook on CPI compilation; The XMPI Manual; Revisions of the CPI Manual; Revision of the PPI Manual

The different responsible persons/organizations reported to the IWGPS on the state of affairs on the different international manuals and handbooks:

- CPI Manual

The CPI Manual needs only some minor corrections to detected errors, i.e. no major revisions are needed for the moment. The introduction of the new SNA 2008 will have only a minor impact on the CPI Manual as well as the recommendations related to the Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices(it was suggested that the CPI Manual makes reference to the RPPI Handbook via a link on the ILO site). (it has been suggested to make reference to the RPPI Handbook via a link).

- Handbook on CPI compilation

The Handbook needs only the correction of some minor errors that have been detected.

- XPMI Manual

The timing has been considered too early to introduce any changes.

- PPI Manual

There are no substantive needs for changing the Manual. A possible idea is to add a practical compilation Handbook on PPI.

The IWGPS briefly discussed how to integrate the effects of the introduction of the new SNA on XPMI and on PPI and suggested to have a dedicated agenda item in the next meeting of the IWGPS.

Action points:

- Leading organizations for the different manuals/handbooks: to analyse if relevant corrections/changes have to be introduced in the existing versions of the handbooks/manuals following, in particular, the release of the SNA 2008. Report back to the next meeting of the IWGPS.

5. Exchange of views on future work of the IWGPS

The IWGPS had a brief discussion on future themes/research issues to be developed/explored:

- Commercial Property Price Indices: the increasing demand for CPPIs requires a reply from the international statistical organisations. Eurostat is to convene an international conference on CPPIs in order to explore and identify the issues that will be integral part of the handbook. Eurostat will explore the feasibility of such a conference and will call IMF, ECB and BIS to support this work.
- Coordination of price statistics initiatives: the IWGPS agreed to enhance the general coordination of the initiatives in price statistics undertaken by the different organisations. Attention should be devoted not only to consumer prices but also to intermediate and producer prices.
- National Accounts: the IWGPS proposed to enhance the coordination with other statistical areas, notably national accounts (the aim is to fill some existing gaps between price statistics and national accounts such as in the areas of government services, leasing services, financial services, link to productivity studies, etc. The reflection should aim not only to harmonise classifications but also to go into the substance of the matters).

Purchasing Power Parities and the International Comparison Programme (ICP): further attention should be devoted to this area both from a methodological and practical point of view.

Action points:

- Eurostat to coordinate with IMF, ECB and BIS for setting up a conference on CPPI in spring 2012.

6. International work and meetings:

(a) OECD and Eurostat initiative on Services Producer Price Indices (SPPIs)

OECD reported on an initiative to update and expand the SPPI 2005 Guide, particularly with respect to compatibility with 2008 SNA and ISIC Rev. 4. and the inclusion of new industries. The Task Force first met in April 2011 and completion is expected by end 2012.

(b) Report from the Voorburg Group

No explicit report has been made to the IWGPS. The IWGPS underlined the importance of a close cooperation.

(c) The Ottawa Group

The IWGPS meeting took place at the margin to the Ottawa Group meeting.

(d) The next joint UNECE/ILO meeting in 2012

ILO briefly reported on the forthcoming meeting of Price Experts, jointly organised by UNECE and ILO, which will take place in May-June 2012 in Geneva. The main topics on the agenda will be: house price indices; system of price indices; price collection methods; quality adjustments for services; CPI flash estimates and revisable estimates; sources of weighting data.

Action points:

- UNECE and ILO to circulate the agenda of the meeting and the call for contributions – end 2011.

7. Next meeting of the IWGPS – where and when?

The IWGPS agreed to have a tele/video conference meeting in autumn/winter 2011-12 to make the point on the progress of different initiatives, in particular on the release of the RPPI Handbook and on the organisation of the CPPI conference.

The IWGPS suggested to have a meeting next to the UNECE/ILO expert meeting in May-June 2012.

Actions points:

- IWGPS Chair to call the meetings of the IWGPS and to circulate the related agendas.

8. Other business

Annex I: Agenda

Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

12th Meeting, 5 May 2011, at 12.15

InterContinental Hotel, Wellington

Draft agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Report to UNSC in February 2011, and updated ToR (Eurostat)
3. Progress of the Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices (Eurostat) and arrangements for the IWGPS to sign-off the handbook
4. Updates concerning the existing international manuals and handbooks: Supplementary Handbook on CPI compilation (David Fenwick); The XMPI Manual (IMF); Revisions of the CPI Manual (ILO); Revision of the PPI Manual (IMF)
5. Exchange of views on future work of the IWGPS
6. International work and meetings:
 - (a) Report from the Voorburg Group
 - (b) The Ottawa Group
 - (c) The next joint UNECE/ILO meeting in 2012 (UNECE/ILO)
7. Next meeting of the IWGPS – where and when?
8. Other business