

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2022/2023 Bureau
Geneva, Switzerland, 15-16 February 2023

Item 6 (c) of the Provisional
Agenda

**TASK FORCE ON MEASURING CIRCULAR ECONOMY:
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF MANDATE AND UPDATED WORK PLAN**

Prepared by the Task Force

The Bureau set up the Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy in February 2021 to: (a) draft practical guidelines for measuring circular economy; (b) contribute to the coordination and collaboration of international organisations' related work; (c) provide a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge.

Since the beginning the Task Force has been collaborating closely with the OECD Expert Group on a new generation of information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy (RECE-XG). One of the objectives of the RECE-XG is to develop guidance on how to produce, use and communicate circular economy information. Therefore, both groups decided to draft the "Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy" jointly.

The OECD Expert Group and the CES Task Force together have completed "Part A: Conceptual framework, statistical framework and indicators" which is presented to the CES Bureau as document ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/17. Subject to the decision of the Bureau, Part A will be sent for electronic consultation to all CES members.

Once Part A has been endorsed by the CES, the Task Force plans to draft "Part B: Guide on measuring progress towards a circular economy" which will complement part A with guidance on data sources for the production of the agreed core indicators, the required institutional collaboration, and using the indicators. It will also include more examples from countries.

The Bureau has approved the updated work plan and the extension of the Terms of Reference of the Task Force until 2025.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS MADE

1. The CES Bureau set up the "Task Force on Measuring Circular Economy" in February 2021 to draft practical guidelines for measuring circular economy, including clarification of key terms and definitions, identifying the data sources and key statistics and indicators needed from the policy point of view, and describing the required institutional collaboration.

2. The Task Force includes members from nine countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Finland (Chair), India, Italy, Netherlands and Sweden) and six international organizations (European Environment Agency, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNEP and UNSD). Furthermore, experts from the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), and the

World Resources Institute (WRI) contribute to its work. Johanna Pakarinen from Statistics Finland is the Chair of the Task Force.

3. Since the beginning the Task Force has been collaborating closely with the *OECD Expert Group on a new generation of information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy* (RECE-XG). One of the objectives of the RECE-XG is to develop guidance on how to produce, use and communicate circular economy information. Therefore, both groups decided to work together and draft jointly the “UNECE/OECD Guidelines for Measuring Circular Economy”.

4. As it is key to have an agreement on the conceptual scope and measurement scope of a circular economy, it was decided to develop practical guidelines separately after the outcome of the conceptual work has been approved.

5. The OECD Expert Group and the CES Task Force have now jointly completed “Part A: Conceptual framework, statistical framework and indicators”. It is presented to the Bureau as document ECE/CES/BUR/2023/FEB/17. Subject to decision by the Bureau, it will be sent for electronic consultation to all CES members. Comments received from the consultation process will be taken into account in finalizing Part A. In particular, the list of proposed indicators may require some updates to take better into account countries’ views.

6. The Task Force plans to draft “Part B: Guide on measuring progress towards a circular economy” which will complement Part A with guidance on data sources for the production of the agreed core indicators, the required institutional collaboration, and using the indicators. It will also include more case examples. This work can be done once Part A has been endorsed by the CES.

7. The current Terms of Reference of the Task Force are valid until June 2023. Therefore, the group would like to request for an extension of its mandate by two years. The following section presents a draft work plan for the finalization of Part A and drafting of Part B.

II. WORK PLAN UNDER THE EXTENDED MANDATE

8. The electronic consultation of Part A is expected to result in additional useful input for further improvement of the document, and in particular help to refine the proposed list of core indicators.

9. Additional work is needed to draft “Part B: Guide on measuring progress towards a circular economy”. This can only be done once there is an agreement on the conceptual framework, the statistical framework and the list of recommended indicators as presented in Part A.

10. Therefore, the Task Force is **asking for an extension of its mandate for two years** (until June 2025) which will allow for the following:

(a) **Finalising Part A** to take into account all comments received before the 2023 CES plenary session. This includes comments received from the CES electronic consultation, the *OECD Expert Group on a new generation of information for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy* (RECE-XG) and comments received at the CES plenary session.

(b) **Drafting Part B:**

- (i) Exploring **methods and data sources for the production of the agreed core indicators**, with a particular view on utilizing data from SEEA-CF;
- (ii) Explaining the **required institutional collaboration** in general terms, but also in the form of national case studies;
- (iii) Drafting **practical guidelines for regular production** of the required statistics and indicators.

III. TIMETABLE

11. A tentative timetable for the remaining work is presented below.

June 2023	CES plenary session: subject to a positive outcome of the electronic consultation, Part A will be submitted for endorsement
July – October 2023	Finalisation of Part A for publication: taking into account all comments received, and editorial improvements as needed.
October 2023 - February 2024	Description of metadata for the recommended core indicators; Collection of case studies on national indicator frameworks and related data flows and institutional collaboration
March 2024	Presentation of interim results of work at the Joint OECD/UNECE Seminar for SEEA Implementation, and collection of further input
March – July 2024	Drafting of Part B
July – November 2024	Consultations with RECE-XG, OECD Working Party on Environmental Information (WPEI), UNCEEAA and others as appropriate; and continuous update of the document
December 2024 – January 2025	Finalisation of the draft document, and submission to CES Bureau for its meeting in February 2025
February 2025	CES Bureau meeting
March - May 2025	Electronic consultation, submission to the CES plenary session for endorsement
June 2025	Expected endorsement by CES

IV. REQUEST TO THE BUREAU

12. **The Bureau is invited to:**

- (a) **Comment on the updated work plan and timetable (sections II and III);**
- (b) **Extend the mandate of the Task Force by two years (until 2025).**

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