

Abstract from the Summary Conclusions
Second Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts
(AEG)
8–16 December 2004
United Nations, New York

Agenda items for THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2004

Statistical treatment of employers' pension schemes (information)

1. The group agreed that governments have an (explicit or implicit) liability for pensions of their employees, regardless of whether the scheme is funded or unfunded. Governments also have a corresponding “liability” under social security, but this might be of a different nature and more difficult to quantify. The problem in some countries is to disentangle unfunded employers’ pension schemes from social security schemes.
2. Eurostat has written a paper presenting six options for addressing this issue, which were referred to in the meeting. In essence, the alternatives are to record one or both of liabilities of governments to their employees and social security liabilities:
 - (i) not at all;
 - (ii) in the core accounts;
 - (iii) in a satellite account or as memorandum items;
 - (iv) by extension of the existing two parallel accounts for income and consumption.
 - (v) some combination of the above
3. The solution needs to be able to address existing situations in countries, to deal with the different types of liabilities and be able to respond to structural changes in the pension regime.
4. Practical guidelines are needed to show national accountants how to estimate employee pension liabilities when public account estimates are not available.
5. The SNA definition of the output of pension funds needs to be reviewed.
6. This topic is one of the most important in the SNA review, thus there needs to be a speedy and clear resolution of these issues to meet the deadlines. One possibility was to create a task force which would coordinate with the TFHPSA.