Dear colleagues

“Making the system work….better” was the title and the motto of last year's DGINS conference. We analysed our working structures, originally designed for six Member States and which now host 27, we counted some 140 committees, working groups and task forces and some 200 meeting days every year. And we said: “The amount of time spent on discussion could easily get out of hand. So we all need to review our working methods to ensure effective exchange of information which does not result in an excessive investment of time and resources.”

Since then, we have started to put our Krakow action plan into practice, have taken first steps towards more efficiency, and have looked together at imaginative solutions that allow everyone to have a say and to explore new forms of partnership.

It is in this context that the Partnership Group and the organisers of the DGINS conference, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and Eurostat, suggested dedicating more time for an exchange of views between the participants of the DGINS conferences in the future and organising it in parallel sessions with delegates reporting back to the plenary.

An imaginative solution. For it to succeed, we can capitalise on the several years of experiences our colleagues from the Conference of European Statisticians have had with their new conference scheme. They introduced it on the occasion of the 50th CES in 2002. The overall objective was to adapt the work of the Conference to a changing world, to overcome pressures and to maintain the attractiveness and usefulness of the Conference of European Statisticians to Heads of National Statistical Offices. In a word, our colleagues in Geneva intended to make their system work better.
And that is precisely what we also want to do. May we therefore suggest that we proceed as follows: we would like to start, at 11 o’clock, after the coffee break, with two parallel sessions on economic and social aspects of globalisation.

Session 1 takes place here in this main conference room. Session 2 on the measurement of the social dimension of globalisation takes place in the Vaszary room (on your left when you leave this room). Both sessions have until 12h30 (lunch break) to have their discussants present the papers and discuss them.

The second part of the economic session will then start again in this room after the lunch break at 2 p.m. The parallel session on the environmental aspects of globalisation will take place in the Vaszary room.

Both parallel sessions will end at 3.30 for a coffee break. May we then ask all of you to come back here to the main conference room at 4 p.m. to hear the reports from the parallel sessions and to discuss them.