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Dear Mr. Ljones,

On behalf of Mr. Walter Radermacher, Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics. You may recall that at its meeting in June 2006, the UNCEEA requested that Mr. Radermacher, in his capacity as Chair of the UNCEEA, contact you to formalize the cooperation between the UNCEEA and the Oslo Group.

The programme of work of the UNCEEA, which was approved by the Statistical Commission at its meeting in March 2006, includes elevating the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) to the level of a statistical standard by 2010. To this end, the UNCEEA has developed a preliminary list of issues for the research agenda of the SEEA revision, which was compiled on the basis of a widely circulated call for issues.

At its last meeting, the UNCEEA identified energy accounts as an important topic to be included prominently in the revised SEEA. Given the role of the Oslo Group in advancing methodologies in energy statistics, I am writing to request that the Oslo Group consider accepting to develop a list of issues on energy accounts and to solve those issues that are approved by the UNCEEA.

Mr. Olav Ljones
Deputy Director General
Statistics Norway
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PB 8131 DEP
N-0033-Oslo 1, Norway

The timeline for the revision process is tight as the Statistical Commission has set the date for approving the revised SEEA in 2010. We would therefore appreciate it receiving the list of issues to be included in the research agenda by mid February so that the UNCEEA can finalize the research agenda shortly thereafter. Those issues that are approved by the UNCEEA would have to be solved by mid 2008 so as to allow enough time for the drafting of the standard.

We look forward to your favourable response and cooperation in advancing the methodological agenda in energy accounts.

Yours sincerely,



Ivo Havinga
Chief, Economic Statistics Branch
Statistics Division/DESA

Cc: W. Radermacher