



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.1.2017  
C(2017) 12 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its favourable Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples {COM(2016) 551 final}.*

*The current system for producing European statistics on persons and households based on data at individual level collected from samples is made up of a number of separate domain-specific Regulations, which specify the exact topics to be covered and the technical requirements for the data collection (e.g. sample size, quality criteria and transmission requirements). There are currently five legal bases for conducting European social surveys, which relate, respectively, to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), the Adult Education Survey (AES), the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), and the Survey on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) usage in households (ICT-HH). Two European surveys are conducted on the basis of an informal agreement only: the Household Budget Survey (HBS) and the Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS).*

*The initiative aims above all to increase the relevance of European statistics for policy making purposes. The proposed Regulation should guarantee the comparability and coherence of the data in the long run. The system of European social surveys should be sufficiently robust and efficient, and should ensure that the high quality of statistics is maintained — which can be challenging given the continual change in this area of statistics: rapid innovation in methodologies and uses of IT, the availability of new data sources, the changing needs and expectations of data users and continued pressure on available resources.*

*Mr Pietro Grasso  
President of the Senato della Repubblica  
Piazza Madama, 1  
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*The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen  
Member of the Commission*