

## **99<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**23 January 2024**

**14.45 – 16.00**

Meeting in Videoconference

## **Internal Record and Minutes**

**Doc. ESGAB/2024(22)**

### **A.1- Welcome by the Chair - Adoption of the agenda**

The Chair welcomed the Members present, the observers and the Secretariat. He excused Mr Georgiou and Mr Carstensen who were unable to attend the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as it stood.

### **A.2 - Follow-up of action points of the previous meeting**

All action items from the last meeting were completed.

The Chair reported that he would present the 2023 Annual Report to the ESSC on 9 February.

The Chair informed Members of other agenda items of interest to the ESGAB, in particular the item on the 55th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which will take place at the end of February.

The Chair reported that Mr Alfred Camilleri had been heard by European Parliament's ECON Committee on 11 January. The Committee approved his nomination. The official letter of appointment will have to be issued by the Council.

### **A.3 – Distribution of the Annual Report – ESGAB Privacy Statement**

The Chair thanked Mr Endre SZABO, Data Protection Coordinator at Eurostat, for attending the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for drafting and circulating the draft privacy statement and related record to members.

The Secretary referred to the previous meeting on the privacy statement and the related record that the Secretariat had to publish to comply with data protection rules, in particular Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. The Secretary explained in detail the content of the two documents and the specificities of the roles of the ESAGB (data controller) and the Secretariat (data processor).

The Secretary underlined that the two documents must be approved by ESGAB before they are published. He reminded that the two documents have been reviewed and assessed by the data protection coordinator of Eurostat.

The Data Protection Coordinator at Eurostat confirmed the explanations by the Secretary.

The Chair suggested one small correction on the record document by adding the word 'governance' before 'advisory' when referring to the 'European statistical advisory board' in a few places.

The Members approved the two documents without further amendments. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and the Data Protection Coordinator for their efforts and considered this an important development for EGSAB.

#### **A.4 – Annual Report 2023 – Adoption**

The Chair explained that the draft Annual Report had been sent to the Publications Office for proofreading. Several comments from the Publications Office have been considered, but not all. After a final check, the Chair and the Secretary found a few remaining problems, which have now been corrected. The Annual Report was distributed to Members the day before the meeting and the Chair asked for the final approval by Members.

The Members approved the Annual Report without further changes.

The Chair congratulated and thanked all Members for their work.

#### **A.5 – Press Release Annual Report - Adoption**

The press release was sent out to the Members before the Meeting.

Members adopted the Press Release without further changes.

#### **A.6 – Next steps before publication of Annual Report and Press Release**

The Chair explained that the summary and recommendations, which are always published separately, and the press release would be quickly translated into French and German.

The annual report will be sent to the Commission after the meeting, following thereafter to the Parliament and to the Council.

The following week, by 31 January, the report will be published on the website with the press release and executive summary, the latter in 3 languages.

The Chair invited Members to send or present the report to any interested person after the publication date.

#### **A.7 - Farewell for outgoing Members**

The Chair stated that it had been a privilege to chair this Board for three years, after more than 20 years and many other functions in European statistics. The Chair thanked all Members and the Secretariat for their work. In particular, the Chair thanked Mr Carstensen and Ms Cocchi, whose terms of office will expire on 31 January 2024.

On behalf of Eurostat, the Eurostat observer expressed his highest appreciation for the work done by the outgoing Chair and the two outgoing Members. He noted the developments and the intensive work carried out under this chairmanship and also for representing the ESGAB in various fora, conferences and meetings and for promoting European statistics. He also thanked Ms Cocchi and Mr Carstensen for their contribution to the work of the ESGAB.

One Member thanked the outgoing Members for their contributions and thanked the Chair for his efforts in always trying to find compromises and appropriate solutions.

The other Member underlined the strengths of the outgoing Chair in managing and leading the ESGAB. He emphasised that the 2023 Annual Report was a very strong one, which required a lot of investment from all Members. He also warmly thanked the outgoing Members.

## **A.8 - AOB**

The Chair underlined that a conference on quality and statistics would be held again this year. It would be held in Estoril, Portugal, from 4 to 7 June and would be organised by the Portuguese NSI.

The Chair explained that the Polish National Statistical Office would be issuing a publication and a call for papers on the role of the basic principles of official statistics, for which potential contributions could be submitted until the end of March. Members were encouraged to submit papers, as well as to other journals such as the Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS).

The Chair closed the 99th meeting and wished the ESGAB a very productive work in the future, while maintaining its enthusiasm and commitment to European statistics.

## **List of participants**

### **Members**

Mr. Aurel Schubert (Chair)

Mrs. Daniela Cocchi

Mr. Pritt Potisepp

Mr. Juan Manuel Rodriguez Poo

### **Members excused**

Mr. Kai Carstensen

Mr. Andreas Georgiou

### **Observers**

Mr. Jean-Pierre Poncelet (Representing Eurostat)

Mr. Endre Szabo, Data Protection Coordinator at Eurostat

### **Secretariat**

Mr Didier Lebrun

Mrs. Avis Benes