



European
Statistical
Governance
Advisory
Board

Helsinki, 31 May 2011
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OPINION

of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB)

**on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Towards robust quality management for European Statistics"
COM(2011) 211**

ESGAB welcomes the Communication as an important element to strengthen the credibility of the European Statistical System, in particular its proposals addressing the principle of "Professional independence" of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The conclusions of the Van Rompuy Task Force and of the Ecofin Council in 2010 highlighted the importance of reliable official statistics. This calls for full compliance with the Code that can only be reached if the legislators and governments engage in a formal political commitment. ESGAB thus endorses the proposals in the Communication which aim to enhance the conditions for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

ESGAB also encourages Member States to cooperate with the Commission (Eurostat) to identify, assess and monitor significant risks as outlined in the revised regulation No 479/2009 in order to implement "audit like powers" in a transparent way.



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