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## **OPINION**

### **of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) on the revision of the European Statistics Code of Practice (Code)**

ESGAB welcomes the proposal with moderate changes which clarify the principles of the Code. ESGAB also notes the ongoing discussions which could potentially make parts of the Code legally binding, but expects the revised Code to be adopted by the ESS Committee as scheduled.

ESGAB further welcomes the efforts to align the quality systems between European Statistical System and European System of Central Banks.

ESGAB suggests an alternative wording for the indicator 1.8 on the appointment and dismissal rules of top management as follows:

The appointment of the Heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated shall be specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence

According to ESGAB's interpretation of the Principle 4.1 formulation "Quality policy is defined and made available to the public. An organisational structure and tools are in place to deal with quality management." allows distinguishing different levels of quality.